

Clinton meets with Salman Rushdie

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton met Wednesday with British author Salman Rushdie who has been in hiding since his novel "Shame Verses" was published four years ago. The meeting was a show of support from Mr. Clinton, whose predecessor George Bush refused to meet with the author after Iran charged his novel was blasphemous and put out an order for his death. White House spokesman Martin Gansberg said Mr. Rushdie had requested the visit. Mr. Gansberg said the brief visit — in which Mr. Clinton "just literally said 'hello' to him — was an opportunity to support "someone who has said and written, Mr. Rushdie, who made one of his rare public appearances Tuesday at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said he had to come out of hiding from time to time to show the death threats had not silenced him. "The only defense against terrorism is not to be afraid of terrorists," said Mr. Rushdie. Iran's state news agency IRNA Wednesday warned Western countries against backing Mr. Salman Rushdie. "Support for Rushdie would only add to Muslims' distrust of Western countries and heightens tension between the two camps," IRNA said. "Fanning the rage of the world's one billion Muslims will not be in the interest of the West."



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France urges Israeli pledge on Golan

PARIS (R) — France told Israel on Wednesday that its Middle East neighbours were keen to pursue the peace process but an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon would advance negotiations. Foreign Minister Alain Juppe telephoned his Israeli counterpart, Shimon Peres, to report on his trip to Syria, Jordan and Lebanon last week, a French spokeswoman said. Mr. Juppe said all the leaders he met were keen to continue the Middle East peace process and had emphasized the need for Israel to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon. "A commitment by Israel in this direction could move the negotiations forward," foreign ministry spokeswoman Catherine Colonna told reporters.

Likud will respect accord — Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's opposition right-wing Likud would respect the autonomy accord but block the creation of a Palestinian state if it returned to power, the party leader said Wednesday. Benjamin Netanyahu, quoted by Israel radio, said a future Likud administration would have to "respect this international accord which was signed by a legitimately elected government." But his party would "work to diminish the risks," especially the creation of a Palestinian state, said Mr. Netanyahu. "Likud will make sure that does not happen." Former Finance Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Mr. Netanyahu's predecessor as Likud chief, said Tuesday at a meeting with U.S. Jewish community leaders in New York that "everything will change" with his party's return to power. "We will find a way," he warned, when asked if the autonomy accord was not binding, as it had been approved both by the government and the Israeli parliament. Tourism Minister Ozi Batan slammed Mr. Shamir's comments as "anti-democratic," drawing Mr. Netanyahu to intervene and give Likud's stand.

Arab party threatens Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli Arab Party leader threatened Wednesday to withdraw his support for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's minority coalition government unless he is given a ministerial post. Abdul Wahab Darwah, told reporters that his Arab Democratic Party and its two deputies would join the opposition unless Mr. Rabin agreed to meet him by Friday to discuss the issue. The party is not a member of the ruling coalition, which has 56 MPs in the 120-seat Knesset. But apart from the ultra-Orthodox Jewish party Shas, which has six seats, Mr. Rabin also counts on Israeli Arab and communist deputies to support the Middle East peace process. "Arab opinion in Israel wants to have its say in the decision-making process and is no longer satisfied with just giving passive support for the government from the outside," warned Mr. Darwah.

Iran wants talks with UAE on row

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Wednesday it wanted direct talks with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on a territorial dispute over three Gulf islands. "Obviously, we still welcome bilateral negotiations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi was quoted as saying by Iran's official news agency IRNA. "Neighboring states should make efforts to remove ambiguities and maintain security and collective interests in this part of the world," Mr. Mohammadi said. The UAE cancelled a minister's visit to Tehran in September, saying Iran's refusal to discuss sovereignty over the islands made any negotiations pointless. Iran says talks have to pre-conditions.

King-Mubarak summit crowns reconciliation

Two leaders say ties back to normal after Cairo talks

'Jordan-Israel accord depends on autonomy progress'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held summit talks in Cairo Wednesday, ending three years of a rift caused by conflicting stands during the Gulf crisis.

It was the King's first official visit to Egypt since 1990.

King Hussein told a news conference after two hours of talks with Mr. Mubarak: "I am happy to be here to visit Egypt and return as we were so we can discuss the important issues in this delicate period."

Asked whether the visit marked the resumption of normal relations, the King said: "Yes, this is my feeling."

Mr. Mubarak intervened to say: "There is no problem as long as there are visits and contacts... I think normal relations are necessary. Our contacts have never been cut and coordination continued. As you remember, the Egyptian foreign minister visited Jordan several times and there is no problem."

In October last year, King Hussein visited Cairo and met Mr. Mubarak briefly after an earthquake hit the Egyptian capital, killing more than 550 people.

"We have made a start and signed an agenda, implementa-

Petra, said King Hussein and President Mubarak held a closed door meeting Wednesday followed by another attended by officials from the two sides.

They exchanged views on regional and international issues and discussed the Middle East peace process.

They agreed on continued coordination of stands and unification of efforts to give momentum to the peace process, it said. They also agreed that the peace process should move ahead to achieve progress along all the tracks, it said.

Addressing a press conference before he returned home, King Hussein said he and Mr. Mubarak discussed all the "important issues at this crucial and promising stage."

"We have discussed bilateral relations as well as the Middle East question, and we hope that a just and comprehensive peace would be achieved as a result of the current peace process," King Hussein said at the joint press conference with the Egyptian president.

King Hussein said he would prefer to wait for further progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track of the Middle East peace talks before implementing a peace agenda signed by Jordan and Israel.

"We seek peace that would deal with peoples needs, not signing of papers only."

"I do not believe there will be danger since we hope that the coming peace would serve the whole region."

The King did not rule out the possibility that the Jordanian-Israeli track would prove "the most complicated" in the whole region.

"I understand the significance of peace is normalization of relations, open borders, everything, and I think Syria understands the same concept," Mr. Mubarak replied.

The Jordan News Agency,

Hamas military chief shot dead

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers Wednesday shot dead Imad Akel, head of the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), military officials said.

Akel, 24, head of the armed wing Izzeddin Al Kassem, was shot dead in a clash with soldiers in Gaza City.

Soldiers had ordered two occupants of a vehicle to stop, but the occupants fled on foot, the officials said.

Twenty-one Palestinians have been killed since the accord on limited Palestinian autonomy was signed by Israel and the PLO on Sept. 13.

Akel claimed responsibility for the killing of two Israeli reserve soldiers in the Gaza Strip last month. A book published by the Hamas this week quoted him as saying he "hoped to go to paradise by being killed by Israeli soldiers."

Israel's chief of staff Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak praised the killing of Akel and said it was an "important achievement in the war against terror."

As the news of Akel's death spread, a call went out from Greece for a 36-hour official visit, later headed to Amsterdam.

(Continued on page 5)

ATHENS (Agencies) — The Washington on Sept. 13.

In another incident Wednesday a Palestinian man was shot dead when he failed to stop his car at a road block in the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, the officials said, without giving further details.

The two deaths brought to 1,141 the total of Palestinians shot dead by Israeli soldiers or settlers since the Palestinian uprising began in December 1987.

Military officials had reported the incident earlier without naming the victim.

Israeli security forces had been hunting Akel for two years.

He was accused of being involved in, or planning, dozens of bloody attacks on Israeli targets carried out by Izzeddin Al Kassem, regarded as the most dangerous armed Palestinian group by the Israelis.

Hamas is opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on limited autonomy for the Palestinians, signed in

(Continued on page 5)

Mr. Arafat said he was in "permanent contact" with Israeli leaders to try and resolve all problems related to the agreement signed in Washington Sept. 13.

"We are sure that with our friends, and with Greeks in the lead, we can overcome all the difficulties," he said.

Mr. Papandreu, for his part, said the peace accord "contains hope and foresight, but also has important problems that need to be overcome."

Palestinian leaders have complained that Israel has maintained in ongoing negotiations with the PLO that the autonomy deal covers the city of Jericho but not the surrounding region — a stipulation unacceptable to the Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat said he was hopeful that a regional peace accord would be reached soon to include Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Peace, he said, "does not belong to (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin or to me, but refused to specify what the two had discussed."

"There are ongoing efforts and talks with our brothers in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

(Continued on page 5)

Arafat insists on his job

in taxation and the quota of Palestinians allowed to work in Israel would be easier to settle than issues of currency, a central bank and trade — free movement of goods and trade relations with Jordan.

They said dealing with the problem of unemployment in the territories, notably in Gaza, was essential to the success of the transitional stage.

The Palestinian labour force in Gaza is estimated at between 125,000 and 200,000, of which about 41,000 were employed in Israel in 1991.

The PLO wants authorisation for 100,000 Palestinians to work in Israel, compared with the 50,000 allowed since the occupied territories were sealed off last March.

No final agreement was expected in the current round, Israeli spokesman Arik Gor-

din said. At least one more meeting, its venue yet to be determined, would be held before Dec. 13, the target date for the Israeli withdrawal.

Mr. Gorin said an agreement on the economic issues would likely be reached "around that time."

Arafat insists on his job

In Tunis, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat denied on Wednesday he had withdrawn as regular chairman of the economic council he set up to channel foreign development aid to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Council member Yousef Al Sayegh said Tuesday Mr. Arafat would only chair an advisory council, after a restructuring which apparently met demands from donors and economic experts.



His Majesty King Hussein is greeted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak upon his arrival in Cairo Wednesday (AP photo)

Israel, PLO discuss transfer of authority

EL ARISH, Egypt (Agencies)

— Israeli and Palestinian negotiators ended their first day of talks here Wednesday on arrangements for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The talks, being held for the first time in El Arish, a Mediterranean town in the north of the Sinai Peninsula, were "stalling over continued basic disagreements."

Differences remained over control of crossing points and the boundaries of the Jericho area, Mr. Arafat said.

The Israeli delegation left El Arish to spend the night in Israel after the talks, which are part of the negotiations on Palestinian autonomy under the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

Parallel talks focusing mainly on security issues were being held Wednesday in Cairo.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat urged Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday to help unlock the talks with Israel, the Cairo foreign minister said.

Mr. Arafat sent a message calling on the Egyptian leader to "work to overcome the obstacles" in the talks.

The PLO representative in Cairo, Saeed Kamal, delivered the message to the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Kamal told reporters the message also dealt with recent "developments concerning the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the Arab World and internationally."

The committee has been making slow but steady progress and both sides believe they can reach agreement at least on the security arrangements in time for Dec. 13.

The withdrawal is the first

stage in a five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule, during which Israel and the Palestinians will negotiate a permanent peace settlement.

A PLO source reported a minor breakthrough at Tuesday's talks in Cairo: The Israelis agreed to include the vexed question of 10,000 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails in the written

accord on the withdrawal.

The PLO had warned that it would not sign the accord unless Israel gave a written commitment to free the men.

But the source said the two sides still differed on what the written agreement should say.

Israel had not accepted a PLO demand for a promise that all prisoners would be released by mid-April.

The source said there had been no progress on the two other major points of difference — the exact size of the area of Jericho and control of the international crossing points between Gaza and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan.

Negotiators expect Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to meet before 13, probably in Cairo, to resolve problems that defeat the lower officials.

Diplomats expect the toughest problem to be the future of one or two small, isolated Jewish settlements in the over-crowded, poverty-stricken Gaza Strip.

The withdrawal is the first

prolonged attack at the end of a two-kilometre walk across Liverpool on Feb. 12. He died of 30 blows from bricks, an iron bar, feet and fists; pain was poured on his face; his half-stripped body was left on a railroad track and severed by a passing train.

Security cameras recorded the toddler taking the hand of an older boy and being led away from the shopping mall and his mother.

Those haunting last images of James and the age of his killers, then 10, gave the case international attention.

Sixty-one people remembered seeing James that day. Many witnesses said they felt uneasy but the few who interviewed were fobbed off with lies: The two said they were taking the boy home or to a police station.

The defendants, who had stopped school on the day of the attack, did not testify. Before encountering James, the boys stole snacks, drinks and model planes until they got what the prosecution alleges they were after that day — a small child they intended to badly hurt, at the least.

Judge Morland said he believed a violent video, rented by James' father, may have contributed to the crime.

James suffered a violent and

taken back to the secure units where they have been held.

Denise Bulger, 25-year-old mother of the victim, in late pregnancy and in court for the first time, went pale as the verdict was announced.

As the boys left the dock, Denise's brother, Ray Matthews, seethed at them: "How do you feel now, you little bastards?"

Venables' solicitor, Lawrence Lee, said afterwards the boy wept as he said: "Would you please tell them I am sorry."

Mr. Lee said that as they waited for the jury's verdict, Venables turned to his sobbing mother, Susan, and asked her to stop crying.

He was the "obviously a boy with problems," said the lawyer. "We accept that he has got to be punished subject to any appeal that there might be. We are not so hypocritical that we think our clients are all saints."

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Algerian regime invites fundamentalists to talks

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's military-backed rulers have excluded Islamic fundamentalists trying to overthrow the government from talks aimed at setting up a transition leading to elections.

The High State Council issued an invitation for a dialogue to fundamentalists "who respect the law" — thus eliminating jailed Islamic leaders who would be key to ending a 22-month-old revolt by their followers.

In a long statement made public to news organisations, the council took the bolder steps of suggesting it would shorten a curfew, ease police controls and free some fundamentalists from house arrest.

Though limited, the moves marked an overture towards the country's large fundamentalist population after nearly two years of a crackdown that have failed to contain Islamic sentiment.

At that time, the fundamentalists had had an election victory stolen, seen their party banned and their leaders jailed. Radicals have taken up arms. More than 2,000 people have been killed.

The invitation and relaxation of some security measures also seemed an effort to soothe

several other political parties that have bolted from the so-called "national dialogue."

The talks, run by a five-man national dialogue commission, are aimed at setting up a two-to-three-year transitional leadership that would replace the committee in January.

Tuesday's statement noted that if "qualified" political figures could be found to represent fundamentalism, the transition talks should serve as the framework to make their views heard.

Their participation "implies... a scrupulous and total respect" for the constitution and the law, the statement said.

There is no obvious candidate for such a role. The main fundamentalist leaders are jailed, in exile or underground. Many are associated with armed Islamic groups.

The council had pledged to

resign by the end of December, the legal expiration of former President Chadli Bendjedid's term. He was toppled in the January 1992 coup that brought the panel to power.

But the council has failed to create an institution to replace it. A national conference setting out the transition is to be held before year's end. Disagreement has held it up.

Kuwaitis tortured ALF members

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ten Palestinians and six Iraqis who had been living in Kuwait before the 1990 Iraqi invasion were tortured by the Kuwait government to force confessions that resulted in death sentences, human rights investigators said Tuesday.

The 16 men were arrested after the war in a frenzy of arrests in Kuwait to find scapegoats, said Ora Schub, one of five lawyers the National Lawyers Guild sent to Kuwait last week.

The delegation asked the Kuwaiti government not to execute the men whose sentences have been appealed to a higher court.

They were tortured with electric shocks to the genitals, bluffed and hanged by the arms from revolving ceiling fans, burned with cigarettes and beaten, said Schub, a Chicago lawyer.

One was tortured by shooting him twice in a foot, she said.

Asked to comment, the Kuwaiti embassy's press office did not return a call from the Associated Press.

The Palestinians were convicted because they were members of the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), a Palestinian affiliate of the Iraqi government, not because they were active in the war, Ms. Schub said, adding that it was only after the war that being a member of the Palestinian front became a crime.

The Palestinians and the Iraqis were sentenced last June 12 in a security court.

Although they are charged with helping Iraqi forces, no one testified about the 16 men killing anyone or fighting, Ms. Schub said.

The trial amounted to sporadic sessions before security court judges, and sometimes a court appointed defense attorney did not even show up, she said.

Other human rights investigators have said that the Iraqi government has executed dozens, perhaps hundreds, of people since the end of the war.

The Iraqis still hold 627 Kuwaiti prisoners, the lawyers said.

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Settler vigilanism continues

BEIT FAJJAR, occupied West Bank (AP) — Israel has announced plans for a crackdown against Jewish settlers to stem a wave of vigilante attacks against Arabs in the occupied territories.

Settlers "are entitled to demonstrate and protest, but under no circumstances to riot and break the law, or shoot, because there are laws and the government must convey the message that they will be enforced," Justice Minister David Libai said.

Among measures being considered are putting secret Shin Bet agents on the trail of those suspected of inciting riots and arresting more activists, Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronot said.

Alfonso D. Rodriguez, editor of the settler newspaper and on army radio that 100 settlers from the West Bank had told him that the Shin Bet had tried to recruit them but they had refused.

In any case, the hit and run tactics of some vigilantes makes it difficult to track them down and prosecute, police spokeswoman Tami Paul-Cohen said in an interview. An example of this was witnessed by this Palestinian reporter for

the Associated Press while driving home Monday night from the West Bank city of Hebron.

My tan Renault was tailed by a white minivan bearing Israeli license plates. At Beit Fajjar in the occupied West Bank, about 16 kilometers south of my Jerusalem home, the van passed me and forced my car onto the road shoulder.

A tall man got out and punched a fist through the driver's window, his metal ring screeching against the glass as it shattered. He also punched my cheek, leaving a reddish bruise, while shouting in Hebrew, "I am a policeman. And you have no right to pass me."

He wore plain clothes, showed no badge, and his behaviour was not anything like those Israeli officers who have stopped me in the past.

Next to him, another Israeli drew a pistol and aimed it at my two brothers who had jumped out of the car when the window smashed, standing frozen at the roadside.

I got out of the car and the tall man tried to lunge at me but was held back by the guy with the gun. Then they left without another word.

It all lasted a matter of seconds, yet the terror and humiliation lingered. Later Israeli police said I could not get compensation for the win-dow because it was broken by Israelis, not Arabs.

Many Palestinians have reported similar actions by settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the past several weeks, including setting up checkpoints outside villages and smashing car windows of those who defy them. Soldiers often stand by without intervening.

The authorities insist such actions are illegal but the law is often difficult to enforce because rarely are complaints lodged or perpetrators identified.

National police said only about 20 settlers have been brought to court.

Mrs. Cohen said one was jailed for several days and the rest were fined or freed on bail.

She said that parliament's legal committee had instructed police to tighten measures against settler vigilantes, including a referral of tough cases to a special crimes unit of national police.

The important front for socialist forces, with strength in the minority Berber ethnic group, suspended its participation with the dialogue commission last week.

Saying no solution ignoring the fundamentalists can work, the party has demanded the release of people jailed for political opinions, the suspension of special anti-terrorism courts and death sentences, and the lifting of the state of emergency was told Tuesday.

Ahmad Ben Bella, Algeria's first president, declared on state television Tuesday that the government should lighten the political atmosphere to make the dialogue work.

Mr. Ben Bella said that unspecified members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) party should be freed from prison and associated with the talks, and some others freed as a sign of goodwill.

Six Algerians killed

A local official was killed in a cafe in eastern Algeria Tuesday following the deaths of five civilians over the weekend, the official news agency APS said.

APS, quoting security sources, said the official was a vice president of the local government of Ben-Zid town about 315 kilometers east of Algiers.

'Thatcher misled parliament' on Iraq

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain's prime minister made a misleading statement to parliament about arms sales to Iraq when she denied in 1989 that there had been a change in government policy, an official inquiry was told Tuesday.

Eric Beston, a civil servant in the Department of Trade and Industry, said the statement by Margaret Thatcher was one of a number of "misinterpretations, inaccuracies, misleading statements" made by ministers to parliament.

But he told the inquiry that Mrs. Thatcher's statement had been drafted by civil servants.

Mrs. Thatcher's successor as prime minister, John Major, set up the "Iraqgate" inquiry to try to discover if London knowingly broke its own rules and sold arms to Baghdad before the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait.

In April 1989, Mrs. Thatcher said in a written answer to a question by an opposition Labour member of parliament that there had been no change in strict government guidelines covering arms sales to Iraq.

But Mr. Beston, former head of the department's export control sector, said the guidelines had been secretly relaxed after the Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988. Controls on arms sales to Iran were maintained.

Replies to Labour member Harry Cohen, Mrs. Thatcher said there had been no change in the British government's policy on arms exports to Iraq and that these were still governed by rules laid down in 1985.

Mr. Beston said Mrs. Thatcher's answer left a "misleading impression" because in fact the rules had been secretly modified in 1988.

The investigation has not yet determined whether Mrs. Thatcher knew about the changes when she gave the answer.

However, on Monday Mr. Beston said Mrs. Thatcher had been given confidential reports informing her about Iraq's attempts to obtain material from Britain for military purposes.

In October, a senior Ministry of Defence official said Mrs. Thatcher had explicitly approved a decision not to revoke export licences granted to the Matrix-Churchill machine tool firm for Iraq in spite of intelligence reports about how Baghdad was using the machinery.

The scandal erupted in November 1992 following the acquittal of three Matrix-Churchill directors prosecuted for breaking the arms embargo on Iraq. The acquittal followed revelations at the trial that the government had covertly encouraged the illegal sales.

Their trial raised the question whether the government had convinced in arms sales and had been prepared to allow innocent men to be jailed rather than have its duplicity exposed.

The inquiry has not established how far up the chain of command to the prime minister the decision to alter the guidelines was known.

A former civil servant told the inquiry in July that William Waldegrave, then a minister in the Foreign Office, lied to parliament in 1989 to conceal a relaxation of guidelines on arms sales to Iraq.

The officials, who spoke in exchange for anonymity, said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat ordered nearly 500 former fighters who had moved to office jobs at PLO headquarters to pack up and be prepared for a transfer early next month.

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2 Aqaba-bound ships diverted

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The international naval force patrolling the Red Sea to enforce the U.N. sanctions against Iraq diverted two ships away from Aqaba this month in what a shipping official described as a surprising and shocking incident.

"We were and still are hopeful that Jordan's complaints that it is suffering serious losses from the overzealous enforcement of the sanctions will be heard and addressed," said Sufian Muhaissen, manager of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association.

Mr. Muhaissen said the latest ship to be boarded and intercepted by an American frigate, No. 997, of the international force was Kora Virwan, which was carrying 350 containers of general cargo from Europe bound for the Jordanian market.

Inspectors from the frigate, which was boarded on Nov. 15 at the Tiran Straits, at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba, found it "dangerous" for them to inspect the cargo since containers were stacked three-high on deck and ruled that they could not allow the ship to proceed, Mr. Muhaissen said.

Subsequently, the vessel turned back and docked at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, where the containers were "shifted" to suit the demands of the inspectors. It returned to the Tiran on Nov. 19 and was allowed to proceed to Aqaba after inspection, Mr. Muhaissen said.

"What was surprising and

shocking of the incident was the fact that we are used to having ships stacking containers three, four and even five high on deck and allowed to proceed to Aqaba," said Mr. Muhaissen, noting that shipping agents were familiar with the guidelines set up by the inspectors.

In the earlier interception this month, a ship carrying South American cargo for Jordan was denied permission to proceed to Aqaba by the inspectors who cited "cargo inaccessibility" for inspection, Mr. Muhaissen said.

That vessel was also allowed to proceed to Aqaba and it rearranged its cargo for inspection.

Such interceptions and delays had declined in the past months, but "it seems that whenever American frigates shift duties, the newcomers adopt their own guidelines for inspections, and this is causing problems," Mr. Muhaissen said. (Perhaps that also explains why Eilat-bound ships are also intercepted, raising hues and cries among Israelis, who, for all practical purposes, are expected to be among the last to bust the sanctions against Iraq.)

Since the U.N. Security Council imposed the trade embargo against Iraq following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the international enforcers have boarded more than 7,000 ships and diverted more than 500 ships.

In many cases, the cargo was bound for the Jordanian market, but that did not dissuade the inspectors from imposing their own conditions before allowing the vessels to

proceed or refusing permission to enter the Gulf of Aqaba altogether.

According to Mr. Muhaissen, the diversion of Kora Virwan incurred an additional cost of up to \$100,000.

Even without the extra costs caused by diversions, freight charges are higher for Aqaba since shippers and charterers have to take into consideration the restrictions on cargo space availability imposed by the inspection guidelines.

In most cases, costs incurred by diversions — including trans-shipment charges — are shifted to the importer, making the consignment more expensive than originally envisaged. In turn the importer charges wholesalers with an extra mark-up and the consumer pays the cost down the line. To a large extent, importers say, this explains the relatively higher prices in the market for some of the products at times.

Mr. Muhaissen said the Shipping Agents Association had held a meeting with a visiting American delegation in September and presented the problems faced by Jordanian shipping agents and importers as a result of the strict inspection procedures.

The American team was also received by senior Jordanian officials and subsequent reports indicated that a report drafted by the delegation was expected to take into consideration the Jordanian problems with a view to working out "better inspection guideline" in coordination with the U.N. Security Council.

Jordanian businessmen visit Israel, but government is unininvolved — officials

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Officials Wednesday confirmed that Jordanian businessmen had been visiting Israel and the occupied territories in pursuit of commercial ventures but that the government was not involved in the visits or the discussions they might have had with Israeli officials or businessmen.

"People have been calling government officials to inform them that they are planning to visit, but that is about all of any official involvement in the affair," said a senior official.

According to the official, who preferred anonymity, the government is not discouraging businessmen from exploring prospects in the occupied territories against the improving climate in the quest for Middle East peace. But he said, it will be sometime before the government could become involved since Jordan and Israel have not signed a peace treaty.

"It is difficult to pinpoint this or that delegation visited and held talks with Israelis on business prospects," said the official. "To the best of our understanding there are no such delegations, except perhaps some businessmen getting together and travelling together."

Following Israeli reports of "business agreements" with Jordanian companies, officials have now made it a

policy to get detailed information from businessmen who inform them of their travel plans, the official said.

Israeli Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said in remarks published Wednesday that Jordanian "experts" had "met Israeli ministers and businessmen to develop cooperation projects."

Mr. Eliezer was quoted as saying students at a technical institute in Tel Aviv said that "Israelis in the next few years will begin making huge investments in large construction projects in Jordan."

"We must prepare for a new era in the Middle East which will lead quickly to economic cooperation between Israel on one hand, Morocco, Tunisia, and Qatar on the other," Mr. Eliezer was quoted as saying.

"We don't know who the experts are that he was talking about," said another senior official. "They were definitely not Jordanian government representatives."

In principle, Jordan has accepted that it would have to do business with Israel after an Arab-Israeli peace settlement has been reached.

His Majesty King Hussein

said in a U.S. television interview that Jordan had "nothing to fear" from economic cooperation with the Jewish state, but that such cooperation would have to wait until a peace settlement has been signed.

There are also officials who

believe that business interaction with Israelis at this point in time could be counterproductive in terms of advancing the peace process to a just solution to the basic conflict.

"It is overindulgence," said a senior official closely involved with economic development in Jordan. "We should not encourage Israelis into believing that they can hope to have any form of normal ties with the Arabs without granting the Palestinians their legitimate rights and returning the Arab territories Israel is occupying."

"Many businessmen feel that they could lose opportunities if they stayed put," said the source. "They would like to explore and find out for themselves what kinds of opportunities exist so that they could be prepared to move in when the time is right."

"No one could expect to see Israeli products in the Jordanian market tomorrow if that is what the Israelis want," he said. "By and large most businessmen are closely aware of the political implications of doing business with Israel before the basic issues of conflict have been addressed in a manner acceptable to all sides."

On the other hand, businessmen have also come off no better if not more "confused" after talks with Palestinians in the occupied territories, officials say.

"As long as the economic basis for Israeli-Palestinian relations in the next stage is not spelled out, no one is able to see with any sense of

accuracy what is possible and what is not," said the senior official.

The official explained that Jordanian-Palestinian economic links depended to a large extent on the success of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations as well as Jordanian-Israeli negotiations within the framework of the joint Jordan-American-Israeli working group set up during the visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Washington in October when he met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Banking circles said senior officials from several banks were regular visitors to the occupied territories but that their visits were more related to arrangements for reopening branches closed in the occupied territories in 1967 and exploring prospects for new branches.

"Someone has to go and make the actual arrangements of the ground such as refurbishing the buildings and setting up the infrastructure for banking operations, including recruitment and training of staff," said a senior banker.

Jordanian and Israeli officials have been negotiating terms of Jordanian control of banks in the occupied territories in the occupied territories for several months now, but no accord has been reached.

"We are not there yet," said the senior official.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent receives senior British military advisor

(NAR) and the Independent bloc which includes five lawmakers.

Visiting UNESCO official holds talks on education

AMMAN (Petra) — United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Assistant Director General Colin Power Wednesday met with Minister of Educational and Higher Education, Khaled Al Omari and discussed UNESCO's cooperation with Jordan in educational matters. Later Mr. Power told Jordan Television that UNESCO was looking into means of helping Jordan carry out its educational development programme. Mr. Power, who arrived in Amman Monday, was due to leave Thursday for the occupied West Bank.

Vehicle licensing department gets new annex

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Wednesday inaugurated an annex to its Marka Driven and Vehicle Licensing Department. The JD79,000 annex consists of additional waiting halls for individuals scheduled to take their driving tests or processing other motor vehicle related matters. The annex was set up to cope with the growing volume of work demand of the department.

Commemorative stamps issued

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communication and Postal Affairs has issued commemorative stamps on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 58 birthday. It said that the stamps of 80 fils, 125 fils and 160 fils denominations will be available as of Thursday at the post offices.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Art exhibition by artist Farhan Abdal Hadi at the Balkan Art Gallery in Al Fuhais (10:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 728962).
- * Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Seham Saadat at Alia Art Gallery (9:00-13:30 and 15:00-18:00).
- * Exhibition of pottery by Hazim Al Zurb at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Al Aydi) — Jabal Amman, Second Circle (9:00-13:00 and 15:00-18:00).
- * Graphic exhibition by Syrian artist Sa'd Hallo at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Iraqi trade exhibit (includes industrial and agricultural machinery, construction materials, vehicles, foodstuff, cosmetics, and carpets) at the Exhibition Hall on the University Road (10:00-13:00 and 15:00-20:00).

DRAMAS

- * Drama entitled "The Story of Al Nawras" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m. (Thursday and Friday).

SEMINARS

- * Seminar on the role of drama in education at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.
- * Seminar intended for teachers of the German language on how to introduce foreigners to the art of writing in German by Dr. Ch. Kramer (9:30-13:00).

FILMS

- * Film in English entitled "Van Gogh and the Expressionist School" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh at 5:00 p.m.

CHARITY BAZAAR

- * Charity bazaar at the Armenian Relief Society — Al Ashrafieh next to the Armenian Orthodox Church Friday.

Exhibitions

- * Exhibitions of lithographs by a number of artists at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibitions of coins at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Energy specialists tackle renewable energy utilisation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Fourth Arab International Solar Energy Conference continued its sessions in Amman Wednesday with participants from several countries presenting papers tackling various topics in the field of renewable energy utilisation.

Dr. Gavril of the Renewable Energy Unit of the European Community (EC) presented a paper on the current trends and future plans of the European countries regarding renewable energy technologies and their applications, asserting that renewable energy is a potential option to supply certain parts of Europe with their energy needs.

Peter Jensen of Denmark said in his paper that the cost of generating power from wind energy turbines is equal to producing it from coal.

Regional environmental centre to discuss future activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) will organise a meeting here Saturday to discuss developing the centre's programmes in its second stage starting 1994 and ending by the year 2000.

The announcement by the CEHA Amman office said that delegates from various Arab states are expected to take part in the meeting.

Hassan Baroudi, CEHA coordinator in Amman, said that the office, established in 1985, provides environmental health programmes and services to states within the Eastern Mediterranean zone.

These activities, he noted, cover water, sanitation, and combating environmental pollution in urban and rural regions caused by chemical and other toxic substances. In addition, he said, the centre tackles environmental health issues of refugee camps and deals with questions related to safe food.

Referring to the CEHA's first stage 1985, Mr. Baroudi

said that it was aimed at enhancing manpower potentials, material resources and technical means available at the regional and international levels to help the countries of the region.

The second meeting on Saturday, he said, is being convened as part of a follow up on research and development in organisational and technological fields, and it will focus also on CEHA's financial resources and the centre's cooperation with national and international organisations operating in Jordan to make the second stage a success.

According to CEHA,

many of the problems that currently face the region with regard to environmental health are complex and intrinsically associated with the needs of economic, social and industrial development.

In addition, the potential for severe environmental damage through uncontrolled or haphazard industrial and urban expansion is great.

Chilean businessmen to study trade links

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Chilean commercial delegation headed by the director of the international economic affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Alex Meneses, is due in Amman Thursday on a four-day visit to Jordan.

The delegation, which includes Chilean businessmen representing producers and exporters of medical equipment, will hold meetings with Jordanian businessmen and officials, according to a statement from the Chilean embassy in Amman.

According to the statement, the Chilean government has invited Jordanian officials and businessmen to Chile to explore the possibilities of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries and the prospect of establishing regular shipping lines between Aqaba and Chilean ports.

Ministry implements plans for construction of 20 new earth dams

KARAK (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has started implementing plans for the construction of 20 earth dams in various parts of the Kingdom, including the desert and the Jordan Valley, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Bassam Kakish.

These dams are within the framework of the ministry's water harvesting project which is scheduled to be completed in 1994, said the minister during inspection trips to the dams under construction in Swaqa, Sultan and Qatraneh.

The total storage capacity of these three dams will mean no water shortages in their respective areas. Harnessing the rain water in these three dams will increase the area of pasture lands and boost farming, he added.

Dr. Wishah said that during the Arbor Day celebration in January thousands of fruit and forest trees will be planted in the Swaqa Dam area, which would eventually be transformed into a tourist attraction, complete with all basic services.

He said the JVA and the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) are conducting studies on how to deal with landslides which have recently started in the southern Jordan Valley region.

He also said that the JVA has worked out an integrated development plan for the Wadi Araba region. Dr. Wishah said that work has already started on the construction of 84 housing units in four Wadi Araba regions. This plan entails building schools, health centres, roads and other basic services which will be set up after the housing units have been constructed, he added.

The minister and Dr. Wishah toured JVA projects in the southern Jordan Valley and discussed with the Karak governor topics related to the water situation in the government.

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Fresh hope for Bosnia

THE EC countries seem to be trying a new remedy, hitherto untried, to treat the Bosnian conflict. And it may just succeed. The EC foreign ministers agreed Monday to offer Serbia, the principal partner and the culprit in the conflict, a "gradual suspension" of sanctions in exchange for territorial concessions to the Bosnian Muslims, the main victims in the armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia. This new initiative is spearheaded by the French and Germans and deserves genuine support.

Given the fact that the West has ruled out direct military intervention to save the Bosnians from genocide and other forms of crimes against humanity, the next best thing is to try the economic card. The potency of the economic factor in defusing the situation in Bosnia cannot be underestimated since the Serbian economy is in shambles due to international sanctions and suffers from a runaway inflation that may destroy even the political fabric of the republic. The timing of the offer to the Serbs could not be better; it may still offer new vistas for resolving the armed and political conflict between the Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

What the European countries have failed to do is to first extend this new tool of diplomacy to the Croats as well since they have also become an important antagonist of the Muslims. Likewise, the EC initiative should also be complemented by an offer to gradually suspend the military embargo imposed on the Muslims. The Bosnian Muslims have been pleading for lifting the arms embargo which has been applied indiscriminately on all the parties to the conflict, irrespective of whether they were victims or aggressors. The unfairness of the arms embargo is so blatant that one wonders why it continues till this late hour. It is true that U.S. President Bill Clinton made a faint attempt to lift the arms sanctions against the Bosnian Muslims, but did not succeed due to London's stance on the Bosnian situation. And Washington's bid to rectify the situation was so lukewarm and irresolute that western European countries have interpreted it as being not serious at best and only a political gimmick at worse.

Next Monday's conference in Geneva on Bosnia is supposed to be a follow-up on this latest EC proposal. Ostensibly, the principal item on the Geneva meeting to be attended by the military and political leaders of the three fighting factions will be the issue of guaranteeing aid supplies to Bosnians. As pressing as medical and food supplies to the victims of the war in Bosnia is, there is little doubt that the occasion will be also used to press ahead for a political solution which is more workable than the ones already tried and failed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday criticised a statement by Nabil Shaath, a leading Palestinian negotiator with Israel, in which he made suggestions about a union between Israel, Palestine and Jordan. Mr. Shaath has the right, as a Palestinian, to discuss and suggest ideas related to Palestinian-Israeli relations and has the right to deal with Israeli-Palestinian joint ventures, but has no right to make suggestions involving Jordan, said Tareq Masa'weh. The writer said that Mr. Shaath does not realise the impact of his suggestions on the man in the street in Jordan and seems ignorant of the fact that the Jordanians are indeed concerned with fusing economic unity with Syria, Iraq and Lebanon and also Saudi Arabia, said Masa'weh. Indeed, the people of Jordan are concerned with attaining a durable peace that would entail full Israeli withdrawal from Arab land, but until that peace has materialised nothing can be achieved towards economic cooperation and only then Jordan can decide on its own involvement in any economic moves, continued the writer. He said that any Jordanian decision can only be taken by Jordan and should be first debated in Parliament. He added that we had hoped that Mr. Shaath would have read the recent statements by the Central Bank governor about Jordan's orientations and its tendency to turn to economic unity with the other Arab countries rather than with Israel.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily noted that the continually rising cost of living in Jordan is not affecting people's food and clothing only, but also their medication and other necessities. Taher Udwani said that the new Parliament should direct its attention towards the cost of living, poverty and unemployment and alleviate the burdens of the Jordanian families. The writer said that unemployment can only be dealt with through more investments, but businessmen say that they cannot expand because the government imposes heavy taxes on their products making them incompetent in the markets, and these taxes constitute an obstacle in the way of expansion.

Women and political life — a battle on two fronts

By Ahmad Y. Majdoubah

Even though supporters of active women's involvement in the Kingdom's political life are certainly justified in rejoicing over the election of a woman MP, they should be no means be overjoyous. For one thing, the "victory" is at best humble: women have obtained only one seat out of 80, a seat belonging to a minority group. For another (and this ought to cause real concern), the overall attitude of the electorate towards women is still far from acceptable.

In an attempt to assess public opinion regarding female participation in political matters, I conducted the following experiment. I chose two groups, each consisting of 30 members, half male and half female. The first comprised university students, the second common people from the various walks of life. I asked them three questions: A) Should there be women in Parliament? B) Would women do a good job as MPs? C) Would you vote for a woman yourself?

I explained that even though the three questions were strongly related, each aims to elicit specific response. I also explicitly requested the participants to write down not what they thought they ought to say what they really felt. I adopted a variety of tactics to ensure confidence and I believe the responses were fairly reliable.

A careful analysis of the answers reveals the following specific results. First, those who think that women can be as efficient and effective in

politics as men, and that they are generally equal in ability, are a small minority (5-10 per cent). One participant writes: "I don't care if the Parliament is all male or all female. I would vote for the person who most convinces me of his/her ability to do the job right, be it a man or a woman." Such an enlightened position, expressed by males and females alike, is extremely healthy and positive.

Second, some (a significant minority, 30-40 per cent) feel that women have the right to nominate themselves and be elected. There is nothing inherently wrong with a woman candidate. Potentially, women are as able and capable as men. However, there are three reasons why respondents belonging to this category think they cannot vote for them.

a) Women in our society, unlike those in the more advanced countries, have had limited exposure to public (political, social, economic) affairs. They have therefore the skill nor the experience. As one participant puts it, "There are no real Thatchers in our society, not even Brontos."

If you challenge such a view and say that there are in fact many women who have been working as diligently and impressively as Ms. Thatcher, they would respond: Where are they? If they are not visible to us, how can we see them?

b) A woman cannot hold a very demanding political position and take good care of her family at the same time. While she may excel in

one, she will definitely fail in the other. A female graduate student of English literature writes: "I truly admire Hanan Ashrawi; she is my hero. But I often wonder about her husband and kids. Who looks after them when she is away for such long periods?"

Such respondents, male and female, firmly believe that family responsibility for women comes before public responsibility.

"Our educational institutions have not succeeded in shaping the attitudes of both sexes towards each other in any desirable way. As a matter of fact, the many misconceptions men and women have with respect to each other (but especially towards the latter) seem to have no room whatsoever in the curriculum. It is indeed a shame that the ideas of most of our university students are not in any way different from those of their provincial, old-fashioned, and uneducated grandparents."

c) In theory, women may do an exceptional job; in practice, however, they will not because our society, which is extremely conservative, repressive and dismissive of women's views, will severely cripple their performance. "It is a society which listens to men not to women. I'd rather vote for the candidate who knows how to deal with our patriarchal institutions smoothly," says one respondent.

Third, and most upsetting,

a comfortable majority (50-60 per cent) is remarkably old-fashioned and sexist. This group embraces very faithfully all the stereotypically

chauvinistic and misogynistic conceptions one can think of.

According to them, women are physically, emotionally and mentally weaker than men; their role ought to be confined to bringing up children; they need not speak for themselves because men can speak for them.

A female student writes: "I know from experience that women are too emotional and that they do not think

female, believe they cannot, so far, take any of the women who run for political posts in our society seriously because such women "seem foreign to us; they do not think the way we think; they do not speak the way we speak." b) Two female students emphasize that women, whether qualified or not, must run for the Parliament "for the mere fact that women ought to be represented by women. Their mere presence is crucial."

In addition to these four points, two general conclusions emerge. First, there is no significant difference between the opinions of the first group (which is more educated) and those of the second. True, the terminology of the former is somewhat more careful and sophisticated. However, the message itself is fundamentally the same. This means, in my opinion, that our educational institutions have not succeeded in shaping the attitudes of both sexes toward each other in any desirable way.

As a matter of fact, the many misconceptions men and women have with respect to each other (but especially towards the latter) seem to have no room whatsoever in the curriculum. It is indeed a shame that the ideas of most of our university students are not in any way different from those of their provincial, old-fashioned, and uneducated grandparents.

Second, and very interestingly, gender does not seem to be a significant variable.

Men and women express almost the same views on the three questions. In fact, the tone and diction are often so identical that it is impossible

to tell whether the respondent is male or female. This particular phenomenon is obviously disturbing for advocates of women's rights have to deal with false notions about women in the minds of the two sexes. Sadly, some women are more ignorant of and hostile to women's rights, or even more patronising, than men are.

Clearly, if serious progress in the cause of women's rights is to be made in our society, a battle will have to be fought on at least two fronts.

A) Women who hold any political or public office will not only have to prove to the sceptical or prejudiced majority that they are capable of running affairs as effectively as men, but also, more importantly, have to make themselves more visible. If you dance in the dark, no one sees you.

B) Advocates of women's rights will have to begin by educating (or rather re-educating) all people in our society about women. All the misconceptions will have to be met and addressed. Ignorance is our hidden enemy. I have found, from experience, that the majority is sexist because it does not know any better. The minute you talk to people seriously and explain, they listen. The majority in our society is reasonable.

Let us celebrate a little, but get down to the real work.

The writer is an associate professor of American literature in the English Department at Yarmouk University, Irbid. He contributed the article to the Jordan Times.

The NAFTA aftermath — changing patterns and coalitions

By Dr. James Zogby

Political analysts and leaders in both parties have showered President Clinton with praise for his winning performance in the congressional vote over the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) last week. There is no doubt that this was a Clinton victory. During the last few weeks before the NAFTA vote, President Clinton met with 150 members of Congress, held 18 mass meetings with business and political leaders and worked the phones non-stop, winning over new supporters for the bill.

The week before the vote, NAFTA was given little chance of passing. Even two days before the final ballot, the count stood at 186 for the agreement and 206 opposed. After a White House dinner meeting with 25 undecided members, a day of last minute phone calls and some creative deal-making, the vote tally switched to 217 for and 197 against. But Mr. Clinton kept working and was rewarded when the final vote tally came in 234 for NAFTA and only 200 against.

Throughout the final weeks leading up to the win, Mr. Clinton looked remarkably strong and confident. One leading political analyst, who is not always favourably disposed towards the president, said that Mr. Clinton was putting on "an awesome display of presidential leadership." Another described him as strong and skilled in the art of politics, saying that the president looked more like Lyndon Johnson (one of the most politically skillful presidents in recent memory) than Jimmy Carter (one of the least skilled handlers of the U.S. Congress, and someone to whom Mr. Clinton had been compared over the past few months).

And, in what for Mr. Clinton must have been the ultimate compliment, one of Washington's leading political commentators, David Broder, indirectly but favourably compared Mr. Clinton's style to that of John F. Kennedy.

Although recognising the differences between the two men and their times, Mr. Broder offered a description of Kennedy and his style of leadership that on many issues matches the portrait of Mr. Clinton's first year in office.

The president's relentless lobbying and deal-making also won him respect from the Republican leadership in Congress. One reason that the vote count for NAFTA was so much higher than expected was because Republicans were so impressed by the president's efforts to win Democratic support that they made a determined effort to increase their support for him. This summer Republican leaders had warned that without active and strong public campaigning for NAFTA by the president, they would take a politically safer path and vote against the measure themselves. After Mr. Clinton's incredible effort, they honoured their word and worked hard to hold as many



votes in the pro-NAFTA column as they could.

With the dust now settling from this vote, Mr. Clinton and the Congress face immediate new challenges, such as a major anti-crime initiative, campaign finance reform and the long-awaited health care bill, which must be analysed in reference to the new circumstances created by the president's resounding victory on NAFTA.

Gained prestige

The NAFTA victory came at a time when the president needed a win; and clearly, the White House is hoping that success will breed success.

As Mr. Clinton left Washington to attend the meetings of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation council (APEC), he did so with restored international prestige, as the passage of NAFTA showed that he had the political strength to deliver on his international commitments.

Now a partner in what will be the world's largest trading bloc, the U.S. hand is strengthened for all future trade talks with both Asian countries and the Europeans. And, since the administration has been arguing for months that trade was one of its highest foreign policy priorities, success in these ventures may take some of the heat off Clinton's foreign policy team. Any such change would be welcome in a White House that still wants to "focus like a laser" on domestic concerns.

Even in the short term, a stronger and more confident White House has emerged from this battle with not only

the president but also with his staff having enhanced their reputation for political savvy and an ability to win.

The new coalition

The coalition that won NAFTA will not be long-lived, nor will it, by itself, reshape U.S. politics. But it does point to a few important new political realities that the White House seems to be among the first to understand.

Current domestic and international circumstances cannot be addressed in the framework of traditional Democrat-Republican politics. The issues are too complex for such a bipolar outlook — they require a "new thinking." Mr. Clinton defines himself as a "new Democrat," willing to take conservative stands on some issues and willing to break with the traditional Democratic coalition.

Over NAFTA, Mr. Clinton broke with organised labour and sided with business. To understand the significance of this, one need only know that organised labour is the largest single voting bloc and second-largest source of campaign money in the U.S. And Mr. Clinton did not only break with labour in his position on NAFTA, he publicly picked a fight with labour lobbyists, much the way George Bush picked his fight with the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) over the loan guarantees.

Mr. Clinton has taken similar stands on other pending legislation as he seeks to define a new centre in American politics. Mr. Clinton's crime bill is

magazine seems to be part of a well-calculated effort to convey his "new Democrat" image. In one of the most broadly quoted lines of his first year in office, Mr. Clinton said: "I have fought more damn battles here for more things than any president has in 20 years, with the possible exception of Reagan's first budget, and not gotten one damn bit of credit from the knee-jerk liberal press, and I am sick and tired of it..." Although the passion of the statement may be quite genuine, it is worth remembering that during the bruising primary election in 1992, Mr. Clinton lost his temper only once when he knew he was being recorded. Such an emotional statement in a planned interview may be just one more way of delivering the message that he is, indeed, a "new Democrat."

Move to the centre

Despite his liberal health care reform proposal, the gays in the military issue, and his refusal to cut entitlement spending as conservatives demand, it is clear that Clinton administration's "new Democrat" image is more centrist than previous Democratic administrations. And, clearly, this is the message the president is sending. He is taking a 43 per cent win in November of 1992 and attempting to build a new but flexible bipartisan coalition in Congress and in the public at large in order to pass the most ambitious legislative agenda in 23 years.

Even Mr. Clinton's blowup at the press in an interview with a large-circulation weekly

problems within the Democratic Party

The anger of organised labour is real — it is political power. They are currently threatening to defeat Democratic members of Congress who supported NAFTA, and leaders of the labour movement have said that President Clinton has "abdicated his role as head of the Democratic Party." Clearly angered by this comment, a leading Democrat responded: "We are not owned by labour."

There is a clear risk in this confrontation. By alienating his strongest political supporters from 1992, Mr. Clinton presents himself with a difficult challenge in 1996, and Democratic members of Congress

So far, his record is good: a far-reaching deficit reduction bill, a very strong anti-crime bill, and now NAFTA. Whether this style of governance, which is now working well to win over legislators and achieving his goals, will help his congressional supporters in 1994 and his own reelection campaign in 1996 is uncertain.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Weekender

Nov. 25, 1993

Published Every Thursday

Modern music with Jordanian identity

By Mohammad Mashara

A group of young Jordanian musicians are enthusiastic about an ambitious project: "The production of a song depicting the Jordanian national identity."

The leader of the group, Tareq Al Nasser, a 25-year-old musician who was involved in music since he was 15 years old says the group's project visualises a modern piece of music bearing the Jordanian identity.

Nasser, who had studied at the National Music Conservatory, says his group has been contemplating its project for two years. The group is determined to present its work in a totally new version and in a modern "language" with a view to winning the hearts and sentiments of the young. The group has therefore decided on a song depicting "real life and reflecting the sentiments and feelings of the soul and the heart."

According to Nasser, Jordanians have for a very long time been influenced by Egyptian and Lebanese songs and music. "Often we hear Jordanian amateur singers singing the songs of the Egyptian and the Lebanese singers as these are closer to the taste of the Jordanian public than others," says Nasser.

The predominance of the Lebanese and Egyptian music and songs totally negated the presence of the true Jordanian national songs; and with the absence of the Jordanian song the traditional music and the Jordanian heritage of music were almost obliterated, says Nasser.

For this reason "we, as a group of enthusiastic youth are trying to revive the Jordanian song and music through modern instruments and with a new spirit," he stresses.

"As an initial step, we have recorded a song depicting realistic problems revolving around an innocent love affair in the rural regions," continues Nasser. The song, in the local dialect, relates the story of a rural young woman who falls in love with a simple shepherd, he explains. "The episode reflects the most innocent form of love and the words are closer to the heart and the soul."

The music accompanying the song is performed by instruments producing something like the sound effects we hear in the movies accompanying the events, he says.

"Our second experiment was with Petra Caravan and Death Of A Bride, two pieces of music which we believe revive the spirit of Arabic music and reflects the local environment. In the two pieces we introduce the sound of ululation and beating of the drum," Nasser continues.

We wonder if this group of Jordanian musicians can indeed produce works serving as substitutes to the

hitherto local music even different from the predominant Arabic music and songs.

Listening to Tareq Al Nasser discussing his project and outlining the group's high hopes, one can feel that something new and real is brewing, reflecting the musicians' search for identity similar to feelings that are reflected in the works of story-tellers, play-wrights, plastic artists and others.

"I dream of composing music for Amman, the city which I adore because I feel I am addicted to its atmosphere and fascinated with walking at night in its various districts which give me a feeling of intimacy and familiarity," Nasser says. "This is a mysterious city... beautiful and chaotic and yet reflecting uniformity," he says of the capital. "This mixed feeling creates in me the desire for singing and composing music reflecting these feelings in a synchronised manner," he adds.

Noting that his group was deeply influenced by the sound effects composed by Peter Gabriel for the movie entitled The Last Wish Of Christ and another composed by Jean Michel Jarre, Nasser says that the works have not only encouraged his group to carry on with their projects but also justified such work.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Nasser hopes that the group's work will resemble the more flexible European and American music and songs which he says are nowadays blended with the oriental taste for the sake of diversity and for reaching out to more listeners and influencing more souls with the new original melody.

"If you want to enable your music and songs to attain worldwide fame, you should start by developing your local musical works, and in this case, the Jordanian music and songs which reflect the local Jordanian environment and the Jordanian traditional art and folklore," Nasser says.

According to Nasser, Jordanian musicians face a great challenge in their quest to ensure for themselves recognition in the Arab World.

"When abroad, one is often asked if Jordanian has its own national music and there is no reply to that question, he adds. This challenge has motivated me to take my work to Damascus and enter a song contest for a Syrian singer Amal Arafeh," notes Nasser. "My work has won in the face of a strong competition by Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian composers."

"Indeed when the Syrian Television broadcast my tunes they were warmly welcomed by the Syrian

musicians, and when Najdat Enzour, the Jordanian television director heard he called me at once and asked that I compose sound effects for his coming television serial entitled Demise Of A Brave Man written by the Syrian writer Hanna Mina."

The story revolves around events in the Syrian city of Latakia and "this prompted me to visit Latakia to look for a suitable tune for the movie. I searched through the songs and music of seamen and fishermen until I finally composed a piece which I believe would hold the Jordanian musicians in high esteem and win them fame," says Nasser.

"If we wish to produce Jordanian music that can be accepted at the world level, it is inevitable to present something creative rather than follow the pattern of the traditional Arabic music that has prevailed for ages. We have vast technology to help us to diversify our music and songs and attain our goals," adds Nasser.

Asked whether the Jordanian Radio and Television Corporation was interested in his music, he said it is rather regrettable that the corporation "continues to believe that Jordanian music is still lagging behind others and is still at the modest stage."

Jordanian music is still lagging behind others and is still at the modest stage." "For this reason, the corporation continues to enlist the help of foreign and other Arab groups, paying them thousands of dinars at a time when the Jordanian musicians can, through their efficiency, skill and qualifications, produce better work," claims Nasser. "Jordan can set up groups of oriental musicians, who are now wasting their time in night clubs, and present them to the world."

Seif Shihadeh, the conductor of the Amman Players Group, agrees with this view, and says that the revival of the Jordanian music has to date emerged through the individual efforts and sacrifices but not due to the backing of Jordanian institutions.

Shihadeh says the present circumstances are not favourable to the Jordanian musicians, simply because no Jordanian law guarantees the rights of the Jordanian musicians and because Jordanian institutions prefer foreign and other Arab works to Jordanian musicians.

Another musician, Raed Malas, son of the well known Jordanian musician Fuad Malas, says that despite his leaning to music at an early age, his father had advised him to study electronic engineering so as to escape the sufferings which his father had faced in the past as a musician. Raed is an amateur musician, but he manages his own private engineering business.

Graceless generalisations

De Gaulle And Algeria — 1940-1960
By Michael Kettle
Quartet, £ 1993, £45

Et Ils Sont Devenus Harkis
By Mohammad Hamoumou
Saqi, Paris 1993, ff120

Les Politiques De Dieu
Edited By Giles Keppel
Le Seuil, Paris 1993, ff140

The first book's title is promising: De Gaulle And Algeria — 1940-1960; the period covered by the study is more puzzling. Michael Kettle covered the Algerian war of independence for the Sunday Times and devotes virtually all his 634 pages to the two years from May 1958, when General De Gaulle returned to power, to the Barricades Week in Algiers, in January 1960. The author contends that, from that moment, De Gaulle lost his political initiative to the Algerian Front de Libération National. The FLN had, since 1954, been fighting for an independent Algeria.

The narrative is constantly interrupted with quotes from the diary the author kept in Algiers. This seldom makes interesting reading, 30 years after the events it describes. Too many entries appear to suffer from journalisticism, "the author all too often being the focus of attention, rather than the events he is reporting."

The first chapter is a broad-brush portrait of 2,000 years of Algerian history. It is difficult to do justice to so complex a subject in 36 pages, but the task is not helped by remarks such as "the Roman occupation, however, like the French in the 19th century, was never very deep. The tribes in the hills, such as the Chaouia, watched the passage of conquerors, and waited." Four hundred years of occupation did leave a deep imprint as did the fast spread of Christianity. As for the Chaouias, they are not a tribe but a large Berber people who inhabit the Aures Mountains. They did not simply watch the Romans from the hilltops!

The list of sweeping generalisations, often unsupported by historical evidence, is long. For example: "The early colonists behaved better than those in Black Africa, though colonisation in Algeria was haphazard and unregulated." Maybe the author should consult Alexis De Tocqueville, who conducted two parliamentary inquiries in Algeria under the 19th century reign of King Louis Philippe and was so appalled by what he witnessed that he wrote that "L'Algérie c'est la France, sans lois et sans hypocritie... tout ceci fuit dans un bain de sang."

The author's political sympathies are not with those he describes as the "rebels." But to insist that the FLN were "killing eight or even ten times as many of their own people" as the French is a travesty. Furthermore such figures mean nothing since it is impossible for anyone to know precisely what proportion of native Algerians were killed by which faction. The violence the FLN used against the supporters of the veteran nationalist leader, Messali Hadj, or against ordinary Algerians trying to stay away from the conflict is increasingly well documented. This conflict was a civil war among Algerians as well as with French settlers. Gross generalisations do not help to explain the sheer complexity of it and rob the book of much credibility.

Even less gracious is the author's criticism of Alistair Horne's masterful study of the war. The Savage War Of

BOOK REVIEWS

Peace, first published in 1977, Horne may not have told the full story, but 16 years ago that was an impossible task. Indeed even the fresh material recent testimonies on both sides of the Mediterranean have thrown up still does not allow the full story to be told. If only Kettle had displayed one fraction of the scholarship and sense of organisation Horne had, let alone modesty!

Two books published recently in Paris shed rather more light on modern Algeria. Et Ils Sont Devenus Harkis is painful to read. It addresses the fate of the 260,000 "Harkis," indigenous Algerians who fought with the French in the civil war and were abandoned to their fate when the French withdrew, on the orders of De Gaulle. Up to 160,000 Harkis were massacred by the victorious FLN in 1962-3; between 50-70,000 managed to escape to France with the help of their French officers, who saw the episode as one of the most shameful in modern French history. Harkis and their families numbered around 1.6 million people in 1962. Those who got to France were mostly put in camps and 30 years later remain poor, uneducated and largely unemployed.

France has preferred to forget them: Algeria clings to the myth that the country rose as one against the French. The author is the son of a Harki. His book is the first well documented study of this issue and the more moving for being written with great sobriety.

To understand the deep crisis Algeria is plunged in today, it would be best to turn to the chapter devoted to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the radical Islamic party which was poised to win the suspended Algerian elections last January, in Les Politiques De Dieu, recently published in French. The work was edited by Giles Keppel, one of the most knowledgeable scholars on modern religious revivalist groups. The chapter devoted to the FIS by Ignace Leverrier is very thorough and provides the best guide to date on this key aspect of Algerian politics. Altogether a more instructive read at a fraction of the price — Middle East International.

Francis Ghiles

A new history of the war

The Making Of The Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1947-1959
By Ilan Pappe
I.B. Tauris, London 1992, £39.50

The disappearance of Palestine from the international map and the establishment of Israel in its stead in 1948, and the accompanying uprooting and dispersal of the majority of Palestinians, remain the focus of much of the historical writing on the modern Middle East. Indeed, academic output on the subject has redoubled in recent years as scholars have gained access to official documents and Foreign Ministry archives in Israel and various Western countries. So contentious is the issue, and so controversial the results, that conferences on 1948 and its historiography have become a regular feature of Israeli academic life.

Among the emerging generation of Israeli historians who have made their mark is Ilan Pappe of Haifa University, who joined the ranks of the "revisionists" five years ago with the book Britain And The Arab-Israeli Conflict. 1948-1951. Since then the "official" historians, now widely recognised as apologists for

Israeli government policy of the period, have given much ground to the younger challengers. This is not to suggest, however, that the "revisionists" are of one mind, nor that fundamental disagreements do not persist in accounts and interpretations between Israeli and Palestinian historians.

It is Pappe's special contribution, therefore, to have made a unique effort to stand back and offer a balanced assessment of the differing versions of 1948. In the process of offering an actual history of events, he refers in certain cases to the debate between historians, and calmly considers each version on its own merits. But he does not seek an artificial balance, nor does he shirk from conclusions that clearly endorse or discredit one interpretation or another. Nowhere is this clearer than in the debate between Israeli historian Benny Morris, one of whose central arguments is that the expulsion of Palestinians in 1948 was more an accident of war than of design, and Palestinian historian Walid Khalidi, who takes the Zionist "Plan Dahir" as a clear example of precisely such design: Pappe joins the latter.

As Pappe states it, however, his aim ultimately is neither to survey the arguments from a safe distance nor simply to restate the "facts" as accurately — possible, but to produce a "new history of the war." He considers that the key to understanding the true course of the conflict lies in addressing the political aspects. To this end he sees his task — having benefited from the triple advantages of declassified material, hindsight and a critical view of the myths and misconceptions that have accumulated on all sides — primarily as one of evaluating the record and drawing firm conclusions about the real intentions of the parties involved.

Pappe's choice of title is particularly apt, therefore, and anyone looking for an authoritative account of 1948 that also takes into consideration all previous efforts should go straight to this book. It is to his additional credit that his text is so easily readable, and his arguments so elegantly contracted. Possibly most important, though, is that Pappe is one of a very few Israeli scholars whose works form a common "bridge" with the small but growing number of Palestinian historians of his generation or younger with a similar academic outlook — Middle East International.

Yezid Sayigh

Thoughts for this week

If there is no hell, a good many preachers are obtaining money under false pretences — Attributed to William A. "Billy" Sunday, American baseball player-turned-Evangelist (1862-1935).

You have not done enough, you have never done enough, so long as it is still possible that you have something to contribute — Dag Hammarskjöld, U.N. secretary-general (1905-1961).

I'm a rugged individualist — Jane Ace, American radio actress (1905-1974).

There are very few monsters who warrant the fear we have of them — André Gide, French author and critic (1869-1951).

Religion without joy — it is not religion — Theodore Parker, American religious leader (1810-1860).

The imperceptible process of age has a point which, once passed, cannot be retraced. I knew I had passed that point and was getting old the day I noticed that all the cops looked so young — Harry Lewis Golden, American author, editor and publisher (1903-1981).

Diary

WICKED: The election of the first woman to the Lower House of Parliament has been met with mixed reactions from her colleagues. During the opening session of the House on Tuesday, Irbid Deputy Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh decided to attract attention to his quick wit by setting a trap for Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant. Rawabdeh arranged with some of his colleagues to leave the seat next to Deputy Toujan Faisal free and placed Sheikh Abu Zant's card on that seat. He then sent one of the House ushers to direct the sheikh to the seat. The sheikh, carrying a newspaper in his hand, walked behind the usher without realising he was being set up. When he reached the seat he realised that it was next to Ms. Faisal and saw the wicked smile on Mr. Rawabdeh's face. Laughingly the sheikh started hitting Rawabdeh with the newspaper in his hand to the amusement, of course, of all present including Ms. Faisal. Sheikh Abu Zant had gone on the record in an interview with a local daily that morning pledging to give Ms. Faisal 10 long dresses if only Ms. Faisal would wear an Islamic dress. He even promised to distribute sweets on the occasion. Someone who read the news commented that the sheikh wanted to shroud his fellow woman deputy into oblivion or cover her up enough to be able to sit next to her without being criticised by his ever present IAF colleagues.

ONE WHAT? Also during discussion in the House's first session Mr. Rawabdeh made a comment in English about the "one-man, one-vote" electoral system. Speaker Taher Masri, being the liberal he is, told Mr. Rawabdeh that it was "one-person, one-vote" replacing "man" with the less sexist term "person." Mr. Rawabdeh was not to take the chiding alone, so he looked at Ms. Faisal and said "I would call it one-woman, one-vote if it were left to me." He would, wouldn't he?

VOICES SO POWERFUL: The newly-elected House Speaker, Taher Masri, was quick to assert his authority over the House during Tuesday's session. Having secured a landslide victory over his IAF rival Abdullah Akaleh, Mr. Masri was not about to lose the momentum of the moment to reverse old traditions dictated by the powerful Muslim Brotherhood deputies in the past Parliament. One of those traditions was that the House would cease deliberation throughout prayer calls heard from the mosque nearby. Amman Deputy Ali Abu Ragheb was reading a list of proposed candidates for a committee to draft a reply to His Majesty The King's address from the throne, when the muazzin started the call for the afternoon prayers. Mr. Abu Ragheb, a former minister now deputy, stopped reading. Mr. Masri was quick to tell him to go on, but Abu Ragheb did not. Again Masri instructed him to go on but still the deputy would not budge. Most of those attending the opening session did not understand why Mr. Abu Ragheb decided to ignore the speaker's urgings. Did he not hear him? Maybe.

MORAL WATCH MINARETS: In another arena not so different, a physical education teacher at a girls public school in Amman has her own story to tell about how certain traditions are affecting her work. The teacher, who has a degree in physical education is apparently ostracised by her fellow teachers at the school — who, she says, are all veiled — because she has not taken the Islamic head dress. So far this can be called a case of birds of a feather flock together and she is obviously of a different feather. But according to the teacher, she has been banned from exercising with her students during her physical fitness sessions which are normally held in the open courtyard of the school. She is only allowed to give instructions but never show them how the movements are done. In fact during the one occasion when she decided to break this rule and exercise with her students, she was called to the headmistress's office. The headmistress told her that she was never to do that again because the muazzin from the mosque whose minaret overlooks the courtyard saw her exercising with the students and called the school to complain. The strange part is that the headmistress did not question how the muazzin got to the top of the minaret during the physical education class and why he was watching the girls' school courtyard anyway.

VEIL ME NOT: The increased number of students wearing the veil in public schools is not an indication of conviction but fear, a veiled teacher contends. She says a teacher who is not veiled "would have never gotten a job if the administrators of the schools were doing the employing instead of the Ministry of Education." Having little influence over the type of teachers appointed by the ministry, the veiled teachers themselves are exercising their powers over their students. Asked whether the school she works in has any unveiled students, the same veiled teacher said "no." Asked why, she said "because we pressure them to wear the veil." Some parents of the students are fearful of reporting to the ministry. The teacher went on: "We are not aware of any laws that protect the freedom of the students to dress the way they want and we do not know whether we would get anywhere if we do take this up with the ministry." Plus, and the parents only whisper this, "we are poor, where would we send our children if the teachers fail them in their classes or make life difficult for them?" Shouldn't they go to Parliament?

Nermeen Murad

Playing the right cards

By Jean-Claude Elias

Of all the options and accessories one can add to a personal computer (PC), sound cards might be the most "fashionable" these days.

A regular PC comes with a very poor sound system, namely a small speaker with possibilities limited to a few beeps and ear piercing sinusoidal waves.

With the invasion of computer games on one hand, and music and Windows applications on the other, having a quality sound system on a computer has become a must. Currently, the multi-media market is on a steep expansion slope and might very well be the fastest growing segment in the field. Multi-media is the combination of sound and image on the PC. Simply put, it is the audio visual part of computing.

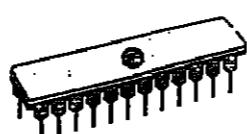
To compensate for the weakness of the built-in speaker, the easiest to implement and the best solution is a sound card. It consists of a small electronic board, approximately 4 X 9 inches, that plugs in the PC bus, provided there is an empty slot for that. If your PC has already received a fax card, a modem card, a MIDI interface or a scanner interface and some other circuitry, you bus, that typically provided you with six empty slots when you bought it, might not have enough of them for the sound card. In such a case, you have to decide which card to sacrifice or buy another PC.

A sound card usually comes with the necessary software to drive it and a pair of external speakers that would normally deliver a stereo sound. Once correctly installed and working, you can enjoy playing games with great music. You can also record sounds of your own via an optional or supplied microphone. These sounds can become part of your programmes and be activated in and from Windows whenever you want them. Some cards also come with a text-to-speech software that takes any text you would type in and read it, out loud, via the speakers, in a robotic voice.

For even better results, you can connect the sound card directly to your home stereo system and enjoy the powerful sound of your amplifier.

An important feature of quality sound cards is the possibility to record live music, your voice, your guitar

chip talk



playing or Radio Jordan, digitally on your hard disk. Remember however that digital sounds occupies disk space at the rate of 5 to 10 MB for each recorded minute. Consequently, and unless you purchase expensive, large capacity, writeable optical discs, it remains limited to short duration recordings. As great as all this sounds, the catch, once again is in compatibility and in specifications.

Among the many available sound cards, two of them seem to have taken ninety per cent of the world market. They are Sound Blaster, by Creative Labs and Sound Galaxy by Aztech Systems. Both are designed and made in Singapore. These two manufacturers supply models that would work with virtually any software or game. Other brands might not give the user full compatibility.

Both Creative Labs and Aztech Systems offer different models, that basically give different levels of sound quality. Having tested some of them, I found that only the very best in each category is acceptable. In order to have a quality stereo sound, the card must work at 44.1 KHz rate and in full stereo. Some models give you 44.1 KHz or stereo, but not both at the same time. Such entry level cards allow you to run at 44.1 KHz in mono or at 22 KHz in stereo. Totally unacceptable. The Compact Disc CD-rate is 44.1 KHz, stereo, and has been defined as the norm for quality, hi-fi sound.

The good news is the relatively low cost of both the Sound Blaster and the Sound Galaxy. From entry level to the high end models, prices vary from JD 100 to JD 300. Whatever model you choose, it will be an excellent value for the price.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Nov. 25 10:00 News In English

8:30 Family Matters

Mary's Best Friend

Dog's man's best friend, as Carl will tell his children when they bring a lost dog home!

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Icierian

Maggie defends a famous hockey player who is charged with killing a man during a fight.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — *Midnight Run*

Starring: Robert De Niro and Charles Grodin

Friday, Nov. 26

8:30 E.N.G.

The Sleep Of Reason

Sensational news is now covered more heavily on Channel-10, following the takeover by millionaire Adam Hersh. But certainly Mike and Anne will not stand by and watch.

9:30 Faces And Places

show that offers the grand prize of \$10,000.

her pain and suffering over Sebastian's death.

9:10 Thirtysomething

Never Better

Now that Suzanne is in New York, Gary takes care of their daughter all by himself, with a little help from Ellen, who finds a new love.

Saturday, Nov. 27

8:30 The Fanelli Boys

Tarnished Angel

Ronnie's girlfriend, Jennifer, admires his brother Dominique; her admiration leads Dominique towards a marriage proposal.

9:00 Da Beat's On

9:30 Perspective

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — *The Widow Maker*

Starring: Robert De Niro and Charles Grodin

Sunday, Nov. 28

8:30 You Bet Your Life

Our weekly date with comedian Bill Cosby and new competitors on his quiz

9:30 Love Boat

The story of a wife who is shocked to know about her husband's mental sickness and unfaithfulness.

9:30 The House Of Elliott

Delta and her friend Connie are betting on winning a basketball game with two men.

10:00 French River

Evie's surprise twenty first birthday does not help ease

10:20 Bird Island

White Women Can't Jump

11:10 Round Globe

Delta and her friend Connie are betting on winning a basketball game with two men.

11:10 French River

Evie's surprise twenty first birthday does not help ease

11:10 Grand Mount

White Women Can't Jump

11:10 Moon Beach

White Women Can't Jump

Monday, Nov. 29

8:30 Delta

The Secret Life Of Arvid Engen

9:10 Ocean World

10:00 News In English

10:20 Till Murder Do Us Part

Starring: Greta Garbo and Fredric March

Tuesday, Nov. 30

8:30 Head Of The Class

10:00 Earthquake

Christy goes to a private school, and Barbara goes to a law school.

10:20 Brand New Life

Private School

Wednesday, Dec. 1

8:30 Head Of The Class

10:00 Night Court

Earthquake

10:20 The Guilty

Never Better

Starring: Michael Kitchen and Sean Gallagher

Thursday, Nov. 30

8:30 News In English

10:00 Clumsy revisited

By E. Yaghi

Clumsy revisited

By E. Yaghi

The following is not intended to slander any persons accused or guilty of blundering.

Clumsy looked and acted exactly like his name. Anyone observing his motions could discern a head that wobbled as if it were going to fall off at any moment and arms and legs that seemed to be misconnected in their sockets. It's not that the wretched man meant to harm himself or others, but rather that perhaps he just shouldn't have been born in the first place. For example, take the other day. He stood on a busy street and patiently waited to cross. Just when traffic was at its most congested, the blunderer decided to cut in front of a long line of motor vehicles, police and all. It happened that he stepped right in front of a huge bus and before the driver could stop, it dragged Clumsy to the ground. Panic stricken, the operator jumped off the bus after screeching to an abrupt halt and to the downfallen victim who fortunately wore a thick coat, "Are you OK? Did you get hurt?"

Whereas Clumsy scrambled to his feet with the coat sleeve dangling where it had been ripped off and with all the dignity he could muster, growled: "Yes, I'm all right, but no thanks to you. You almost killed me. Didn't they teach you how to watch out for pedestrains?"

In a fit of nervous shock, the driver fumbled in his pants for some cigarettes and as his hands violently shook, finally lit one. Luckily, the police determined that the fault lay with the idiot who cut in front of traffic, not the driver who swore that from that day on, if he starved to death, he would never operate a bus again.

Clumsy is noted for being a regular handyman around the house. Not too long ago, he decided to fix the light which had burned out in his study, so he dragged the kitchen table all through the house banging through doors and slamming walls wherever he went. At last he plunged the heavy piece of furniture down and climbed on top of it, teetering like a man on a tightrope. As he successfully screwed the light cover in place, he moved too close to the edge and came tumbling down like a small earthquake. His wife and children rushed to the rescue and after assuring herself that no bones were broken, she scolded him with, "you are just like a bull in a china shop. You must be more careful. One of these days you will have a serious accident!"

To which he complained: "Women! They're always nagging. Nag, nag, nag. Never leave a man in peace."

One thing he excels at is being a good parent. The other day he took his small son to the pediatrician and when the child was diagnosed as having tonsillitis Clumsy said: "Thanks, Doc. Here's your fee." And

headed out the door, only to hear: "Hey wait a minute. You forgot your son!"

Chagrined, the red-faced parent fetched his son and got out of that clinic as soon as possible. It was raining and as he clutched his child tightly to protect him from getting wet, he suddenly slipped and fell into a black puddle. The toddler had a surprised look on his face, but wasn't hurt, as Clumsy had born the brunt of the fall and he gathered himself and child with all the dignity he could manage and proceeded to walk home covered with mud to the astonished glances of scurrying passers-by. "Why is it that people can't let a man be?"

During his lunch break the other day, Clumsy decided to go to the local library and do some research for a business project. As he ascended some steps at the foot of the library, he fell over his shoes and grabbed the man next to him to gain his balance. Recovering from this near disaster, he later ascended another flight of stairs, this time with a load of books under his arm. His luck would have it, he was looking the other way and with a big thump on the stairs, found himself sprawling over his glasses. Well, he got himself up as fast as possible and mumbled as he departed the building of silence, "Humph! All everybody does in this graveyard of dilapidated books is stare and no one ever smiles."

Outside in the sunshine, he caught up with one of his colleagues who was heading back to work. Perhaps because he was in a hurry, all at once, his feet flew from under him. "Oh," his friend cried, "are you all right? Are you sick?"

Miffed at such an insinuation, Clumsy returned: "Of course not. Anyone can fall!"

But then a few steps later, he repeated his performance to the startled attention of citizens sitting on the grass or park benches nearby. His buddy, by now very concerned, queried: "Are you sure you're not ill?"

He struggled to get up as quickly as possible and with an injured ego snarled: "Why do you keep asking such silly questions? Anyone can fall!"

"Not twice in the same place," was the answer.

So, he trudged off alone to his office building feeling greatly misunderstood. And with a somewhat gauche heavy, burst through the office door only to flatten his boss, who was just leaving, like a moth on the floor.

"Oh, sir, I'm terribly sorry," he groaned as he scraped his employer off the woodwork.

In a purple rage, his boss shouted: "Take a long leave of absence and don't bother to call us, we'll call you!"

That night, knowing that only at home he is really appreciated, poor Clumsy rocked his youngest child on the bottom of his legs. Carried away with the fun, the baby flopped over on his face and howled in protest. At least he wasn't seriously hurt but only had a blue forehead and red nose to show for his experience.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaqir

STRANGE BUT TRUE

* A Londoner made a nice looking necktie with a brush to remove dust accumulated on clothes. He shaped it like a ribbon that has nylon strings and added it to the end of the necktie.

* There lives in the tropical zones a kind of fish very strange in the position of its eyes. While in water, the upper half of its eyes appears on the surface whereas the other half rests below.

* The habit of hurling shoes on the newly-married couples emerged from the ancient tradition of giving a shoe as symbol of transferring ownership.

* The bee can go on nearly 20,000 trips to neighbouring gardens for collecting nectar just to make one pound of honey.

SAY IT IN ARABIC

NATIONALITY

— What is your nationality? ما هي جنسيةك؟
— I'm Jordanian. (English, American, Japanese, Greek, Swedish)

Ana Orduni. (inglezi, amreki, yabani, Yunani, Sweidi)

— Have you got any identification papers?

— Hal idhayka ayy awruk libtak el-shukhsya?

— I have my passport.

— Ladaya jawaz safari.

— Have you been here for a long time?

— Hal akanta bona mudha taweed?

— Most recently.

— Monzo waqt kareeb jiddan.

— Show me your registration card, please.

— Arini bittaka at-taqseel, min fadlik.

— I'm stateless. Can I claim the Jordanian nationality?

— Ana bidoun jinsiya. Hal yomkinoni talab al-jinsiya al-Orduniya?

— Are you a foreigner?

— Hal ants ajnabi?

Donald Sutherland — the original Homer Simpson

Douglas J. Rowe
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Did you know that Donald Sutherland once played Homer Simpson?

No. Not that one — the cartoon buffoon is the patriarch of The Simpsons. That was his actor's name in The Of The Locust, director John Schlesinger's 1975 satirization of the Nathaniel Hawthorne book about Hollywood sycophants in the 1920s.

Sutherland, however, isn't laugh as others do

when he's reminded of the Simpson connection — perhaps because he's unfamiliar with the Fox Network series.

"I liked that character. I liked that character a lot," he says seriously. "It was the last review I ever read."

It was Pauline Kael's review in the New Yorker. "I have it in my head. Burned. Burned" he says, his slow, soothsaying baritone rising.

"On the first page she said that the novel really shouldn't have been written, but since it was, OK. But it shouldn't have been made into a film, but if they

were going to make it into a film, they should have brought it up to date and not shot it in Los Angeles, but shot in Las Vegas. It should never have been done by a foreign director." And on and on.

He recalls reading that long-ago review in a hotel lobby while Schlesinger was sitting across from him. "And by this time we're into four pages, and then she trashed Karen Black and William Atherton. And it then gets to the bottom of this page... and it says, 'there's nothing specifically wrong with Donald Sutherland's performance as Homer Simpson. It's just awful.'

Schlesinger rolled on the floor, laughing, when he got to that point.

If Sutherland read the notices of his latest film, Dr. Bethune, he would have enjoyed various tributes. But the movie came and went at most theatres in a heartbeat, probably because, as one critic put it, "whatever happened in the editing room shouldn't happen to sausage."

Sutherland, whose breakthrough role came in MASH as Korean War medic Hawkeye, says Bethune's idealism led him to play another doctor.

He notes that Bethune put hospitals on the backs

of mules and on wagons to bring them to the front in war-torn China in the 1930s.

The role evoked a bit of chauvinistic pride for the native of St. John, New Brunswick. He played the Canadian surgeon because he feels Canada needs as many folk heroes as it can get.

"Robertson Davies (the Canadian writer) said the only difference between Canada and the United States is just a question of frontiers. In the United States it's the old west and your hero is the outlaw; and Canada, our frontier is the far north and our hero is the mounted policeman. And mounted policemen don't really make great heroes."

When it's suggested that Dudley Do-Right might qualify, he laughs at the thought of the inept cartoon mountie.

Still, he sees it as a serious dichotomy.

"We're like two sons, Canada and the United States, that left the British Empire, the mother. We stayed with the apron strings and you guys went off. And our character has not been dissimilar from those of the classic images from the boy who stayed home and the boy who went away and made a big success."

Sutherland has a certain reverence for directors.

The two sons borne to him by French-Canadian actress Francine Racette are named Roeg, after director Nicolas Roeg, and Rossif, after Frederic Rossif. The actor's feelings stem from working with some of the best, including Bernardo Bertolucci, Louis Malle and the late Federico

Fellini.

Sutherland also expresses near awe for the written word and writers.

"I love scripts that are written by good guys," he says, citing John Guare and Alvin Sargent. "Really delicate, elegant scripts that you wouldn't dare to change a word of. That your job is to struggle to find the real meaning of that word."

He allows that some scripts serve as just a framework, but says what you hope for are the ones that aren't just an amorphous foundation for a film.

Next: He co-stars with Stockard Channing (reprising her stage role) and Will Smith in the film version of the play Six Degrees Of Separation, directed by Fred Schepisi.

"I had a wonderful time working for Fred," he says. "It doesn't have to do so much with the characters as to do with the director you're working for."

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Donald Sutherland as Dr. Bethune

direction of the made-for-cable film, Last Light, which aired on Showtime last summer.

When he was a boy, Sutherland originally wanted to be a sculptor.

"I lived inside my head, you know. Improvisation only becomes worthwhile after an incredible amount of practice and work. Only when you can do it perfectly can you improve on it."

He would eagerly act in a film directed by his son, Kiefer (one of the two children Sutherland has from his two failed marriages before he met Racette). He expressed a father's pride about his 26-year-old son's

needed encouragement. And I needed more than the singular encouragement of one person. I needed a bunch of people. So I decided to become an actor."

The transition was easy enough. "It's the same kind of plastic art," he says, adding that he himself feels like a Giacometti sculpture.

"He started out big and brought them (his works) down until he had squeezed them into the most energetic pieces that he could make out of them. That I were getting lost in the memory.

"But the life of a sculptor was one with which he couldn't deal because it's such a solitary pursuit. I

"I, in fact, gain weight," he says before heading off to dinner, intending only to have some soup.

Howard Jones is selling records — literally

By Steve James
Reuter

W YORK — British thesiger rocker Howard Jones has sold his fair share records in the last decade, but now, freed from a record label, he's selling in himself.

Jones' latest CD, Working In The Backroom, was sale at shows during his tour North American tour

a special souvenir of his latest work since the disc, autographed by the singer, is not available in stores.

Jones, a former Rolling Stone magazine Keyboard Player Of The Year, has maintained a loyal following in North America, although he has had only one number one hit — "no one is to blame". Last year, his Lift Me Up made the top ten.

"My contract had finished with Elektra (which just released The Best Of Howard Jones) and I thought all I ever knew is from being with a major label," the former spike-haired musician explains.

"My first reaction to leaving Elektra was kind of 'shock, horror', but then I saw it as the opportunity not to have to pander to anyone. It was a chance to

break away.

"As an artist I have an obligation to explore all things I am capable of... like just piano and song or jazz-pop or a record every six months."

So he went to work in the studio at his home in England, west of London.

"I tried some new material," he told Reuters before his show at New York's Academy Club.

"At the end I strung it all together and thought, 'I've got something here. Why not put it on my own label and go on tour?'

"So I decided to sell it only at concerts and see what happens," Jones said.

The project gave him a chance to take control of every aspect of producing and marketing his music.

"I really enjoy this, it's like taking a step back and

seeing everything, from marketing and selling to the art work, and I did the master myself.

"Some country artists have done it in the past, selling their own records at gigs, but it's a big adventure."

So far, he said, he reckons that about half the audiences on his recent British tour bought the disc, a gem of lusciously-produced and

melodic songs.

Considering he's playing

small halls of about 1,500 people in the United States and Canada — "it's a small number, I know, but it's a special thing for the fans."

And at about \$10-12 a disc, he's not going to become rich.

"Music nowadays is so available that this makes it something special... like a limited edition print."

"It's also a gesture to the fans who have stuck with me for 10 years," he said.

"They have been frantic phone calls from people saying 'I can't get to the gig, how can I get the disc?'

"There are other ways of selling it, like mail order... Frank Zappa did it, but it won't get in the charts or on video. At the moment we're not thinking of this," Jones said.

French fashion giant Cardin plans expansion in Vietnam

By Philippe Agret
Agence France Presse

HANOI — French fashion giant Pierre Cardin has announced a major expansion in his operations in Vietnam and said the country was "well-placed" to play a leading role in the world fashion market.

Cardin, here to show his couture collection in the Vietnamese capital recently for the first time since his group began operations in Vietnam three years ago, said the group had signed several licensing agreements for his range of luxury products.

The designer also planned to open a Maxim's restaurant in southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, he said.

Vietnamese, who do not produce high fashion, may want to consider modelling it. Cardin told reporters in Hanoi he was planning to open Vietnam's first modeling school, after setting up schools in China and

Russia.

"I would love to open a school to train young people here because... you will become a nation of fashion," he said.

"You do not need to settle for international fashion standards. Please, keep your Ao Dai," Cardin said, referring to the long, side-slit traditional dress worn over silk trousers.

He said he had "big plans" for Vietnam's struggling market economy.

Vietnam was "well-placed because of its quality workmanship and reasonable price" to conquer the world fashion market, Cardin told reporters in Hanoi.

His fashion empire already has 190,000 people working in 840 factories spanning 120 countries.

Cardin presented his fashions for the first time in Hanoi to an audience including the nation's senior leaders. As is his custom when presenting his fashions abroad, Cardin himself selected 20 local

models to wear his creations on the catwalk.

The fashion show followed a gala.

Profits from the two evenings are to go to victims of recent floods which left more than 60 people dead last month in central Vietnam, and towards the construction of an orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City.

Cardin returned to Vietnam last April for the first time since an initial visit in 1957.

"I wanted to come back here this year because I felt your country had suffered so much and that it had the right, especially young people, to have a vision for the future of the world like its Asian neighbours," he said.

During his press conference Cardin told young Vietnamese to "believe in your country." He added:

"You have the right to happiness and to dream after having suffered so much."

Cardin is currently touring Asia as part of his role

of honorary ambassador for UNESCO. He went to

Shanghai, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila, Seoul and Bombay.

Pierre Cardin chats with two models at the end of his fashion photo

Fashion's wild boy Lacroix is southern gentleman at heart

By Lee Yanowitch
Reuter

US — As the lights up on Christian Lacroix's first couture collection in July 1987, he made men of the cross and his breath. was the most intensely updated collection in and several million had been gambled on 36-year-old's success. The designer had evened of opening a couple in the past 25 not since Yves Saint Laurent.

Despite the attention given to that first show, no imagined that Lacroix, out of the stuffy house you, would become the impossibly acclaimed designer he is today. With age, the audience swatched as Lacroix's and wildly colourful

clothes swept across the catwalk, inspired by the flamboyant costumes of his southern French origins and the bullfights he is so fond of.

Orange, chartreuse and fuchsia plaids were paired with mad unmatched prints. The dresses, mostly spectacular evening wear, were made of luxurious satin, velvet and lace, sumptuously embroidered and trimmed with braid and tassels.

When it was over, the audience showered him with carnations and poured backstage to embrace him. The press hailed him as fashion's new hero, the man who brought audacity and bold invention back to the art of custom-made clothes.

"I just try to rediscover the glamour that makes me nostalgic," he said. "And all of sudden people were calling me an iconoclast and the 'enfant terrible'."

That glamour — the glamour of Christian Dior's voluptuous new look, before shameless femininity became politically incorrect — is what Lacroix has brought back into style.

"I used to go with my mother to the seamstress. It was like a harem, this atmosphere of women amongst themselves," Lacroix said.

Here, the Arab princesses who order Lacroix wedding gowns come for fittings — the Middle East accounts for 60 per cent of his sales — and women such as Baroness Marie-Helene de Rothschild and Faye Dunaway choose dresses costing upwards of \$10,000.

"I just try to rediscover the glamour that makes me nostalgic," he said. "And all of sudden people were calling me an iconoclast and the 'enfant terrible'."

One day in 1978, Lacroix

sent a home-made birthday card to a friend. The friend was amazed. His drawing reproduced the styles paraded on the catwalks at the last ready-to-wear collections.

In that same week he showed his sketchbook to designers Karl Lagerfeld and Angelo Tarlazzi and to YSL Chairman Pierre Bergé.

"And they all seemed to think it wasn't too bad," he says.

He dropped out of school and within three months had found a job working in the studio of the fashion house Hermès.

"I never thought I'd become famous. My aim was to earn a living doing something that I found exciting every morning. Faye Dunaway and I were a very modern couple, but deep inside there was still this

Mediterranean machismo that made the fact that she worked and I didn't bother me," Lacroix says.

Three years later, despite his inexperience, the house of Patou hired him as a designer. Within a short time, he brought the staid house unprecedented international attention.

But by 1986, he was itching to move on. His chance came when Bernard Arnault, a dynamic young businessman whose conglomerate Financière Agache already owned the Christian Dior and Celine fashion houses, fell in love with Lacroix's designs and offered to back him with eight million francs (\$1.3 million).

Infiltrated, Patou sued Lacroix and his backers for 10 million francs (\$1.8 million). Now, the only designer

beside Yves Saint Laurent to win regular standing ovations, Lacroix is still very much the cheerful, unassuming southern gentleman.

He seems embarrassed by celebrity and is uneasy under public scrutiny. When he goes to a fashion show or a bullfight, he wears old jeans and asks to be placed in the back rows.

The most puzzling

Edinburgh becomes anti-AIDS laboratory

By Philippe Valat
Agence France Presse

Of all persons "fashions", a nameless beeps with and having become a tree fastest combi- it's a speak is so appro- provi- alred- interfa- ry, you slots them decide A softwa would install great a ncept becom and fr cards takes via the For card d. power. An possibl

EDINBURGH — Shocked to discover eight years ago that their city had the highest incidence of the HIV virus in Britain, authorities here launched an AIDS prevention campaign that has yielded stunning results among high-risk drug users.

But city officials acknowledge they still have a long way to go to change the social habits of young Scots, who are particularly vulnerable through unsafe sex to the virus which causes ac-

quired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Help has come, however, from the powerful but deeply conservative Association of Scottish Kiltmakers. The group agreed to back an effort to encourage Scotsmen — particularly those from Edinburgh — not to leave home without a condom.

"What should a real Scotsman wear under his kilt?" That's the question accompanying a photo of a smiling, bare-chested young Scot on 100,000 posters that have gone up in pubs, night-

clubs, schools and at the historic university here.

The poster campaign is part of a city-wide drive in which civic leaders, social workers, charitable organisations, doctors and pharmacists have joined forces in an anti-AIDS mobilisation unmatched in Europe.

Until 1985, the 700,000 residents of the Edinburgh area had blithely assumed they had been spared exposure to the human immunodeficiency (HIV) virus.

But that year, during a routine test conducted on

105 people suffering from Hepatitis B — hard drug users for the most part — 32 were found to be HIV-positive.

"Overnight we found we had a problem of HIV on a scale we never expected," recalled Dr. George Bath, coordinator of the anti-AIDS campaign in Lothian County, where Edinburgh is located.

A more systematic examination of 1,800 known drug users was even more alarming: Nearly half were infected with HIV, transmitted by syringe.

The figures meant Edinburgh had an infection rate more than four times the national average, outstripping such high-density population centres as London and Liverpool.

Social workers and medical researchers to this day are trying to determine why Edinburgh should have been so afflicted when nearby Glasgow was not.

"The shock had its positive side because it led to a rapid mobilisation," according to Dr. Bath.

Fighting AIDS quickly became a compelling municipal priority and remains so. In 1992 the county allotted £8.6 million (\$13 million) to combat the disease, a figure topped only by

assistance to the elderly.

Two centres are open here seven days a week where drug users can acquire clean syringes and hand in dirty ones. A mini-bus meanwhile travels the length and breadth of the city, distributing clean needles.

With municipal financial backing, 20 pharmacies have agreed to supply three syringes free to all who request them — an anonymous transaction with no questions asked.

For the last four years the 530 general practitioners in the county have received a regular newsletter on AIDS research and treatment and have attended seminars and

stayed in touch through a telephone hotline.

The results have been impressive. According to Dr. Bath, transmission of the HIV virus by syringe is now insignificant.

Without the city's spirited intervention, he says, the number of HIV-positive drug users in Edinburgh would be two to three times what it is at present.

The campaign has therefore shifted focus, notably as the spread of the virus through sexual activity has risen steadily.

In response the city distributes condoms free of charge in 18 centres, including several high schools. Health educators visit schools and prisons.

Edinburgh's 900 minutes, 200 of whom men, have a permanent conception centre. With a telephone call they receive as many as 50 condoms in a single delivery.

The charitable organisation SAM and its 50 volunteers concentrate on the community. The local car team regularly calls its supporters to take cautions.

But Dr. Bath can't "We have no guarantee success. We are not sure we are acting faster than the disease is spreading."

"Still, it's not a reason give up."

Female foeticide goes virtually unchecked in India

By Abhik Kumar Chanda
Agence France Presse

NEW DELHI — "May you be the mother of a hundred sons" is a traditional blessing bestowed upon a young married woman in India.

Women's groups and doctors blame the obsession with male offspring for the abortion of hundreds of thousands of female foetuses every year.

Female infanticide has been practiced for centuries in India where girls, commonly regarded as a burden to their parents, have been killed at birth by strangling, suffocation or poison amid chants of "go, send your brother."

The gender bias persists and science has made things simpler.

To day, more than 250,000 female foetuses are illegally aborted every year following occasionally risky sex determination tests guaranteeing "100 per cent success" to a growing clientele.

There is no comprehensive legislation to stop the practice except a 1988 law

in the western state of Maharashtra banning the use of ultrasound and other examinations for congenital deformities for sex determination.

"We cannot expect the law to serve as a deterrent. Ministers, legislators and judges are consumers. The key lies in promoting awareness and making a woman conscious of her rights," said feminist activist Madhu Kishwar.

"Very often a woman has such a negative self-image that she does not want her daughter to go through the difficulties and misery she has," she added.

Dowry plays a large role in sex discrimination and female foeticide.

In Sarsa, a sleepy town of some 150,000 residents 250 kilometres (155 miles) south of New Delhi, billboards urge would-be parents to spend "500 rupees now (for sex tests) and avoid paying 5,000 rupees later (in dowry)."

More than half of Sarsa's 80 doctors conduct an average of 100 sex determination tests and 25 female

abortions a day, earning the town in Haryana state nationwide notoriety for medical abuse.

"Ask a person in Sarsa if a sex determination test has been done in the family and he will say yes," said local surgeon Rekha Bansal.

Several of her colleagues said the practice is justified.

"It makes sense for a woman to have an abortion if she already has two daughters and discovers that the third one she is carrying is also a girl," said Urmila Talwar, another Sarsa doctor.

Baldeep Singh, a physician from neighbouring Punjab state who confesses to having conducted 60,000 such tests, echoes Dr. Talwar saying it is the best method of "population control."

A random survey of a hospital in the southern city of Madras came up with startling results. Out of the 8,000 abortions carried out in a year, only one was of a male foetus.

Critics claim the country's declining sex ratio is a direct outcome of the selec-

tive abortions following sex determination tests introduced in India during the early 1980s.

None is entirely safe or foolproof.

"Amniocentesis, which is based on chromosome tests conducted on the amniotic fluid surrounding a foetus, is harmful because the fluid is aspirated with a needle. It can cause infection," said Delhi Gynaecologist Pushpa Chandra.

"Chorion biopsies and other sonography tests are not always accurate," she added. "Besides, pregnancies are terminated sometimes well after four months and this is both dangerous and illegal."

A proposed parliamentary amendment would make female foeticide and sex tests for gender determination punishable by law and provide for the blacklisting of offenders.

Till such time, the abuse continues virtually unchecked across the country as would-be mothers succumb to family and social pressures to end "unwanted" pregnancies.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

UP AND DOWN
By Craig Schulte

ACROSS

1 Armed
5 Ambition
8 Book
12 Easily broken
17 From a
18 Hand
20 Food scrap
21 Artery
22 Common memory aid
25 — postal
27 Play
28 Name
29 — Crucifix N.
30 Mat.
31 Formed by stamping
33 Put in place
34 Water on water
35 Meets us

DOWN

1 Notorious
2 Longer
3 —ment
3 —ts
4 Sea birds
5 Candy
6 Yoko —
7 Mountainous nest
8 Earth
9 — (realistic)
10 Perfect example
12 Old book
13 German prawn
14 — of love
14 "smell —"
15 Restless
16 Superior, e.g.
19 Current style
22 Space Star
23 Space Star
24 Sharon

24 Meets us

Diagramless 21 x 21. By Frances Burton

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Clay is given life by artist's hands



Two works by Hazim Al Zu'bi on display at Al Aydi (Photo by Florent Chevoleau)

By Ica Wahbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN—Contentment, derived from the warm glow of the sensible colours of mother earth, is the feeling one gets when watching Hazim Al Zu'bi's pottery.

The works, exhibited at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Al Aydi), are a large array of stoneware objects, practical or decorative house-ware, made of hardened clay coloured with natural pigments.

The pre-Islam, pre-biblical, Sumerian and Islamic calligraphy are already known to the viewer; the novelty of the Zu'bi show is the use of old Jordanian symbols in a stylised

way.

They are human figures, naively represented on plates, pots or ashtrays. The colour is mainly turquoise, but also light and charcoal grey, on a neutral, light grey.

The tableware is in various degrees of beige, brown, grey and taupe, decorated with abstract symbols or stylised figures in light brick, turquoise, blue, greys or ochre browns.

Mr. Zu'bi's works are characterised by a great purity of lines, beautiful contrasts and attractive abstractions.

One mural, made of 28 individual squares, is exquisitely executed and an unfailing eye-catcher.

Darker blocks form a natural frame to the lighter ones. The frame, dark taupe, is engraved with black verses from Gibran Khalil Gibran, in beautiful calligraphy, and the middle is made up of alternating hollow and solid, slightly ballooned, light taupe squares decorated with abstract patterns.

Stylised animals, flowers, human beings or abstract symbols and geometrical figures adorn vases that take different shapes: amphorae, spheric, oval or ending in a pointed, narrow cone reminding of the horn of a unicorn.

A more local theme is that of another mural, in beige ochre squares divided into triangles, with birds and animals we came to recognise from the by now familiar Jerash or Madaba

mosaics.

The exhibition, which was inaugurated on Nov. 23 by Her Majesty Queen Noor and also has a collection of traditional handwoven rugs on display, runs until Nov. 30.

Mirage — between reality and imagination

By Najwa Kefaya
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Alia Al Shanti Ammoura is exhibiting solo for the 13th time presently at the Ab'aad Art Gallery-Mecca Street. Her exhibition is a collection of 30 acrylic and oil collage paintings categorised by the artist herself as being "abstract expressionism."

The overwhelming atmosphere of the exhibition is philosophical to a large extent. It is an atmosphere of pain, sorrow and pessimism. Sarab, which means mirage in English, is not only the title of her exhibition but also the name of each and every painting she has on display.

Apparently, this exhibition reflects a state of mind which Ms. Ammoura lived recently with the new developments within the so-called new world order, where a modern concept of justice is being implemented by the "strong" according to their interests and to the convenience of their own whims.

In this new world, the feable are becoming weaker, the oppressed more suppressed and the hungry more dependent on the rich. With this understanding at the back of her mind, she came to believe that "nothing in this world is real except death itself! Every other incidents are just passing by and disappear as if they never were, just as a mirage" she told the Jordan Times.

Brief moments of misery are enough to erase years of joy and dump them into oblivion, turn them into illusions. She sees the present with a crying eye, closed in search of hope through the imagination. She sees it as a ladder where the destiny and history of peoples are being drawn by outsiders, up and down.

A work by Alia Al Shanti Ammoura

Arafat: Gaza, Jericho will not be 'Bantustans'

(Continued from page 1)

mosque loudspeakers calling for a general strike Thursday in his memory.

Activists from the PLO's mainstream Fatah organisation were also enraged by the killing, and called for a three-day general strike in solidarity with Hamas, Israel Radio said.

Colonel Maher Al Fara, a senior Palestinian official in Gaza to oversee the setting up of a Palestinian police force, stayed home on Wednesday to mourn the death of a relative shot at a roadblock the night before, Israel radio reported.

Mohammad Al Fara died when soldiers opened fire on a car that ran a roadblock in Khan Yunis in the Gaza strip. The radio said the driver, who was wounded in the incident, ran the roadblock because his licence and insurance had expired.

Masked Palestinians stabbed Mohammad Al Fara to death in the Bureij refugee camp on Wednesday, witnesses told Arab reporters. Ilan, 32, was killed because he sold hashish.

The death came despite a two month moratorium on the killing of collaborators called by the Hamas earlier this week. The word "collaborators" is used to describe drug dealers and prostitutes as well as Palestinians who work for Israel.

Hamas called on collaborators to repent during the moratorium.

In a separate incident near Gaza, soldiers shot dead Nidal Awad, 19, in his car at Beit Hanun when he did not stop at an army checkpoint. Arab sources said Israeli sources initially said he was killed at the Jenin refugee camp.

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King Abdulla's Garden Gas Station

Map showing location: King Abdulla's Garden, Gas Station, Al Rayyan Building, Jordan Designs, Safeway.

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Economic slump pressures Japanese firms to cut jobs

TOKYO (AFP) — More than 60 per cent of major Japanese companies have cut or plan to cut jobs to cope with the economic slump, the Kyodo News Service has reported.

Kyodo said that its recent survey of 100 listed companies found that 57 per cent planned to take similar steps.

The adjustments included fewer-than-usual recruitments, layoffs and recommended voluntary retirement.

Motor vehicle manufacturers, electric companies and steelmakers, which have been hard hit by weakening demand and the high exchange rate of the yen, were expected to step up job cuts, analysts said.

Mazda Motor Corp., a major Japanese carmaker, said that it had laid off about 25,000 workers Monday to cope with poor sales at home and abroad.

The company, which employs 31,000 people, said a similar step would be taken next Monday.

Mazda said it suffered a pre-tax loss of 15.5 billion yen (\$14.5 million) in the half-year to September.

Other major Japanese carmakers have announced plans to lay off workers.

Nissan Motor Co. with a work force of 53,000 said that it had laid off 2,100 workers Friday and that similar measures would affect the same number on Friday this week and 15,000 workers on Dec. 10 and 17.

Honda Motor Co., which employs some 32,000 people, planned to lay off 4,000 of

them for four days between late December and early March, company officials said, adding that the dates would be decided later.

The Nikko Research Centre, the research arm of major stockbroker Nikko Securities Co., estimated the number of surplus workers held by Japanese companies at 3.35 million.

Official statistics show that Japan's jobless rate stood at 2.6 per cent in September with 1.72 million out of a work force of 64.93 million having no jobs.

The rate represented an increase of 0.1 percentage points from August and a rise of 17 points from the figure a year earlier.

Japanese companies, in the economic doldrums for two and a half years, set little signs of an early upturn and fear the current slump could become the longest on record.

Economic indicators point to it lasting longer than Japan's previous record recession which ran from March 1980 till February 1983. Businessmen and economists agree.

Japan's Economic Planning Agency officially announced last week that the current slump started in May 1991.

In the six months to September this year, most Japanese companies saw their profits drop by up to a quarter and are forecasting bleak performances for the full year which next remained slim.

Economic analysts are predicting that October's industrial output figures to be issued this week will show a sharp fall over the previous year.

companies totalled 2.41 trillion yen (\$23 billion), down 25.5 per cent from the same period last year.

The firms — excluding banks, securities houses and insurance companies — saw sales drop 6.9 per cent from a year earlier to a total of 147 trillion yen. And they expect severe business conditions in the second half, forecasting an average 21.1 per cent fall for the full year to March 1994.

The situation in the second half will be "much worse than the first half," said Kenichiro Yoshida, an analyst for Nikko Research Institute. "No one can exactly predict how much longer they will have to suffer the severe conditions."

The slump has not spared Japan's blue chip companies. Industrial leaders such as Nippon Steel Corp., Nissan Motors Corp., and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. as well as Nintendo Co. all reported sharp falls in profit or even losses.

Government officials, who declared several months ago that the recession was over, concede they were wrong and are gloomily predicting the turn down will go on for some time yet.

The bank of Japan said the economy remained sluggish with little sign of recovery, and reported Friday that chances of an improvement before March next year remained slim.

Economic analysts are predicting that October's industrial output figures to be issued this week will show a sharp fall over the previous year.

Turkey grapples with tax reform

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's hard-pressed treasury could raise an extra 60 trillion lira (\$4.4 billion) next year if a draft tax bill is enacted, but one of its architects said it had scant chance of success in a nation of tax-dodgers.

"Unless tax revenue is increased, this country's budget deficit will continue to get bigger and bigger," Veysi Sevig, chief tax adviser to Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, told Reuters.

The deficit, estimated at 120 trillion lira (\$9 billion) in 1993, is set to hit 192 trillion lira (\$14 billion) in 1994.

Mr. Sevig said taxes covered only 57 per cent of state spending, against 75 to 80 per cent in most industrialized countries.

"In OECD countries the average tax burden is 29 per cent," he said. "In Turkey it is 13 per cent. But if you add the amount lost through tax evasion, it would be nearer 20 to 25 per cent."

Mr. Sevig said the proposed changes could garner an additional 60 trillion lira in tax revenue next year.

He said about 260 trillion lira (\$19.3 billion) in tax had been collected this year, but at least 110 trillion (\$8.1 billion) more had been lost through evasion.

Mr. Sevig estimated that 35 to 60 per cent of the economy went unrecorded, through false receipts, undocumented sales, bogus firms reaping the benefit of company tax breaks and imports masquerading as tourism, education or health products.

Naming non-payers, putting those who falsify receipts in jail and compelling people to declare their wealth would help.

"We are looking at greater surveillance of wealth," he said.

The reform would increase administrative powers to inspect the sources of unusually large spending and give municipalities more responsibility for collecting their own taxes.

Mr. Sevig said the present system was unfairly weighted against fixed-wage earners, who contribute more than 45 per cent of tax revenue, while accounting for only 15 per cent of the economy.

In European countries, fixed-wage earners contribute about 15 per cent of the tax take, he added.

"To bring our taxation in line with the European Community (EC) and ensure a fairer tax burden, 14 laws will be changed if the bill goes through," he said.

Tax on the minimum wage would be reduced to around 16 per cent from 19 per cent. A higher tax band would be introduced to deduct 55 per cent from annual earnings exceeding 2.4 billion lira (\$177,000). Currently the highest levy is 50 per cent on annual earnings higher than 516 million lira (\$38,000).

Mr. Sevig said corporate tax would be lowered to 20 to 25 per cent from 49.22 per cent to encourage firms to pay their dues.

"Corporations make up 90 per cent of the economy, but corporate tax brings in a mere seven per cent of tax revenue," he said. "They simply don't

pay — we are decreasing the percentage to try and make it more payable."

The reform would increase administrative powers to inspect the sources of unusually large spending and give municipalities more responsibility for collecting their own taxes.

But Mr. Sevig suggested a new consumer tax to protect industry from low-quality imports from Asia and cheaper European cars.

He said foreign currency sales would no longer be liable for banking or insurance tax. "We are also looking to scrap all securities tax for the investor, making the issuer pay."

Mr. Sevig said passage of the tax bill, which has not yet been approved by cabinet or parliament, was vital but could not say if Ms. Ciller would be able to push it through this year.

"This country is either going to collect taxes or go bankrupt," he said. "The bill must get through parliament, but I cannot say if, or when, it will. We are waiting."

He voiced doubt about whether it could succeed even when on the statute books because tax dodging was so deeply entrenched.

"Here people will do anything to avoid tax and if you pay your money (bribe), these things are 'arranged' for you," he said. "A major change in attitudes and a serious overhaul of the system is needed before any such reform can have a hope."

U.S. treasury sees gloomy prospects

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration issued a report Wednesday with a gloomy picture of global economic prospects and called on Japan and Germany to do more to end their current slumps.

The report by the Treasury Department said the United States, Canada and Britain were in firmly established recoveries but that prospects in Japan and continental Europe remained discouraging.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said the report underscored the urgent need for Germany and other nations in Europe to cut interest rates further and for Japan to fulfill pledges it made six months ago at the economic summit in Tokyo.

Mr. Bentsen called on all countries to meet a Dec. 15 deadline for world trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. He said agreement would provide a critical boost to global growth by opening new markets and encouraging trade.

President Clinton used America's need for expanding markets as a central selling point for the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Congress approved last week.

The treasury report noted that U.S. exports, which accounted

for four per cent of the total U.S. economy in 1989, now account for 10 per cent.

The report singled out China for criticism for its foreign exchange rate policies. It said China was unfairly manipulating its currency to maintain a huge trade surplus with the United States. That surplus totaled \$18 billion in the first eight months of this year, second only to the trade surplus Japan ran with the United States.

When country keeps the value of its currency low, its exports are encouraged because they are cheap in the importing countries. Imports into the cheap currency area are reduced because they cost so much.

The treasury report also expressed concern over currency restrictions by Taiwan and South Korea and said they could hinder market forces. But it said it did not find that those two governments were now manipulating their currencies to gain an unfair trade advantage.

Economics Minister Chiang Pin-Kung was recently quoted as saying Taiwan wants to sign a free trade agreement with the United States following passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

and make a point to see this person and make a plan whereby you can increase financial well-being.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You ooze charm and magnetism today and you would be wise to see everyone possible who is able to give you the push in the direction vital to your happiness.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Let your attachment now know of your affection and being very romantic and understanding of your mate can bring the closeness that means much to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is certainly your day to stop concentrating so much on practical and material matters and see and enjoy as many friends as are available.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Keep your attention riveted upon how you can best advance your worldly prestige and honour and build upon your present credit, civic rating.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have in mind that will give you a better awareness and understanding of persons you like have recently met is excellent today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider the many personalities you know and what you can do to have a more close relationship with them in the days ahead by knowing them better.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

now stand a face lift for it would improve both the value and the appearance and please the eyes very much as well.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider well what you want personally out of life now and go after these desires with courage, character and conviction and you can obtain them.

SCORPIO:

(October 23 to November 21) Now you would be wise to think of ways to show more romantic interest in those who are near and dear to you and especially to your own mate.

TAURUS:

(April 20 to May 20)

Now you can add a considerable amount of operative skill as well as make your surroundings more as you wish by studying how to place articles better.

GEMINI:

(May 21 to June 21) A good look at your home and see what you can do to improve the furnishings, utilities and appliances etc necessary for good performance there.

MOON CHILDREN:

(June 22 to July 21) If you have some pleasure in which you wish to engage try to have them beneath your own roof now and be sure you have them in good order.

LEO:

(July 22 to August 21) Put a touch of extra good will and/or compliments into whatever communications you have to send out today and you make a much better impression to receivers.

VIRGO:

(August 22 to September 22) Your possessions could

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I only wanted some romantic hand-holding! I wasn't trying to arm wrestle you for the last pork chop!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LARAT

HOPNY

TOWWOK

FLYNUK

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: LIVEN BIPEO CIRCUS PICNIC

Answer: What the beauty aid specialized in — LIP SERVICE

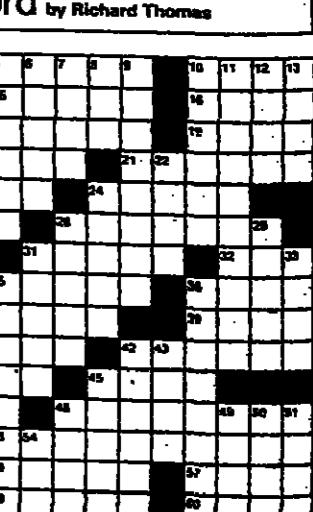
(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: LIVEN BIPEO CIRCUS PICNIC

Answer: What the beauty aid specialized in — LIP SERVICE

THE Daily Crossword

by Richard Thomas



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved...

ALIPHIC REAR SAGIR

PIRUM AXIAL TAPRO

PIRUM HOMOPOLYPT

PIRUM VITELLO

PIRUM TROPICAL

PIRUM OILMOS ACER

PIRUM DEBAGAN JIGAB

PIRUM AMBAN AMKITE

PIRUM BICKSHAW REAP ERICA

PIRUM ANGILERI ALMALL

PIRUM AGABA MEMO

PIRUM NAVY TRONE

BITLOW 50 Departed

ENDINGS 51 Performers

49 Leak out 52 Player

48 Oriental nurse 54 NBA player

DON E

1000 999 998 997 996 995 994 993 992 991 990

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25-26, 1993 7

Syria to raise capacity of gas plant

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria plans to increase capacity of the Jbeisa area close to the Iraqi border, would increase its production to 2.9 million cubic metres per day, Oil Minister Nagib Nabulsi has said.

He told Reuters the plant, which began operations in 1988 to treat natural gas and associated gas produced at oilfields

go up to 300 tonnes from 25 tonnes.

The minister said a \$46 million contract has been signed with Romania's Industrial Export Company to conduct the expansion which should be completed within 18 months.

The Romanian company built an oil refinery in the Syrian port city of Tartous with a daily capacity of more than 100,000 barrels.

Syria, which currently produces more than 580,000 barrels of oil per day, has proven gas reserves of more than 24.5 billion cubic metres.

Mr. Nabulsi said the expansion would also increase the amount of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) produced to 70 tonnes from 30 tonnes while the amount of condensate would

Clinton offers broader ties if N. Korea ends nuclear ambition

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton says the United States is ready for a broad new relationship with North Korea if the Communist nation reopens talks with South Korea and allows outside inspections of its suspect nuclear programme.

"The door will be open," the president said Tuesday.

Mr. Clinton said he was not eager to ask the United Nations for economic sanctions against North Korea in the event it continues stalling on nuclear inspections. The administration has said sanctions are a viable option.

Speaking after a White House meeting with South Korean President Kim Young Sam, Mr. Clinton denied that he was shifting the administration's approach to the Korean nuclear problem.

North Korea insists that its nuclear programme is designed to produce electric power not weapons, but it has balked at permitting outside inspections.

Mr. Clinton said he and Mr. Kim agreed to "re-examine our security approach" to North Korea, but only if the North met two demands: resume a dialogue with the South and permit nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"I don't consider that weakening our position or changing it or rewarding aggression," Mr. Clinton said in response to a reporter's question about his statement Monday that he planned to announce a new approach to the nuclear problem.

Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Kim used the same phrase to describe their approach to settling the North Korea nuclear issue: "Thorough and broad" — an apparent reference to a willingness to offer incentives and rewards for North Korean behaviour.

One possible reward could be U.S. diplomatic recognition of Pyongyang. But Mr. Clinton was vague about what North Korea could expect if it met the U.S. conditions.

"In fact, what we want to do is to diminish the military tensions in the area, but that has to begin by the willingness on the part of North Korea to allow the inspections and to resume the dialogue," Mr. Clinton said.

A senior administration official had said shortly before Mr. Clinton's meeting with Mr. Kim that the United States was willing to drop the 1994 joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise called Team Spirit if the North met Mr. Clinton's demands. The official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, had said Washington would reserve the right to review Team Spirit later if talks faltered.

The official said the offer would be made directly to North Korean officials Wednesday in New York. Mr. Clinton made no mention of such a session.

Asked about dropping Team Spirit, Mr. Clinton denied there had been any decision.

"That is something that would have to be decided by both of us at a later date, depending on what would be done or not done by North Korea. We've made no decision on that and no commitment on that, and we couldn't now," Mr. Clinton said.

North Korea considers Team Spirit a provocative dress rehearsal for a U.S. military invasion.

An administration official who briefed reporters on condition he not be identified said the administration feels a sense of urgency in settling the nuclear issue because North Korea's compliance with inter-

national safeguards is eroding.

"Time is not on our side," the official said. "This is a matter of increasing urgency."

As a party to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, North Korea is obligated to forswear development of nuclear weapons and to permit international inspections of its facilities. North Korea contends its sovereignty and are part of a contrived U.S.-led campaign.

Mr. Clinton made no explicit mention of a new round of direct high-level talks with the North Koreans. Two such sessions were held last summer, but a third scheduled for September was canceled by the United States after North Korea refused to allow international inspectors full access to its declared nuclear sites.

Mr. Clinton also said Washington and Seoul are "concerned by North Korea's concentration of forces near the demilitarized zone" that has separated the North and South at the 38th parallel since the end of the Korean War in July 1953.

Mr. Clinton did not elaborate on that point, but U.S. and South Korean officials have said before that they are troubled by the fact that about 70 per cent of North Korea's 1.1 million-man military force is near the zone. The bulk of South Korea's 650,000 armed forces also are near the border.

The United States has about 36,000 troops stationed in South Korea.

Meanwhile the Pentagon said Tuesday the United States plans to sell 317 air-to-air missiles to South Korea for \$169 million to help bolster Seoul's defence capability.

The announcement that Seoul had sought the additional arms for its warplanes, including 190 advanced AMRAAM missiles, came af-

ter President Clinton and Mr. Kim Young-Sam held talks in Washington.

In addition to the advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles (AMRAAM), which can be fired at enemy warplanes from over 30 miles (45 km) away with deadly accuracy, the package would include 127 shorter range Maverick air-to-air missiles, the Pentagon said.

A senior South Korean military strategist dismissed as absurd a *Newsweek* story quoting classified U.S. reports that North Korea could win a ground war against the South and occupy Seoul in one or two weeks.

The U.S. weekly magazine quoted U.S. Defence Department intelligence reports as saying North Korea's array of forces and strategic doctrine — coupled with the failure of the joint U.S.-South Korea Command to respond — have created an opportunity for the North to launch a quick, massive strike across the demilitarized zone.

Newsweek quoted a Pentagon source as saying recent computer simulations showed "the South's defences collapsing so fast the hair stood up on the backs of our necks as we watched."

"Given the security measures between South Korea and the United States... the predictions in the report are not correct, they are absurd and unreasonable," Kim Su-Hyun, a lieutenant colonel in the Joint Chief of Staffs Military Strategy Department, said in a statement.

"Our own war games show positive results," Col. Kim said.

"Newsweek's report is groundless and its evidence insufficient," said the statement issued by the Defence Ministry.

The Zenica convoy passes along the mountain road closed after the killing of a Danish driver during fighting between Muslims and Croats a month ago, leaving hundreds of thousands of victims of Bosnia's civil war without outside aid.

The convoy moved at crack of dawn from Croat-held Mostar Tuesday to deliver the first U.N. aid to the town in a month. The U.N. had said the 55,000 civilians trapped in the Muslim eastern part of the town were in a desperate situation, "begging for food."

On the political front, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic urged the United Nations to suspend sanctions against Yugoslavia while peace in Bosnia was negotiated and to lift them completely when it was signed.

The convoy must pass Gornji Vakuf, where heavy Muslim-Croat fighting was reported overnight and U.N. sources feared the hungry population might storm the trucks.

The warring sides in the conflict agreed last week to guarantee safe passage to aid convoys, but they remained stalled until the U.N. were



The corpse of 11-year-old Srdjan Ratkovic lies in quarters in Sarajevo by a mortar shell fired from Sarajevo mosque. Srdjan, a Serb, and two other children were killed playing near the U.N. head photo

U.N. aid convoy rolls through Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — A U.N. winter aid convoy started for the Muslim stronghold of Zenica Wednesday to test the reopened main road for relief supplies through Croat territory to central Bosnia.

Two other U.N. aid convoys set out from Belgrade for the Muslim towns of Tuzla and Srebrenica, which are surrounded by Bosnian Serb forces. These convoys were among four turned back by Bosnian Serbs Tuesday, angering U.N. officials.

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assured local commanders would obey orders by their superiors.

"I hope we make it to Tuzla this time, we were turned back three times (on Tuesday). Silver Sulum of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees told Reuters television.

Serbs say fighting and lack of fuel to clear snowbound roads prevented the convoys to Tuzla and other towns from getting through Tuesday.

A convoy reached the southern city of Mostar Tuesday to deliver the first U.N. aid to the town in a month. The U.N. had said the 55,000 civilians trapped in the Muslim eastern part of the town were in a desperate situation, "begging for food."

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assured local commanders would obey orders by their superiors.

"We must not rely only on hints to suspend sanctions. If the international community wishes talks to succeed, it must suspend sanctions now and allow the Serb side to be fully equal in the talks."

The European Community, which has agreed to ease the sanctions against Serbia if Muslims are given more land, called a meeting of the warring parties in Geneva Monday to relaunch the peace process.

The presidents of Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro are due to attend the meeting.

The peace process stalled in September when the mainly Muslim Bosnian parliament rejected a package dividing Bosnia into three ethnic states. They demanded more land from the Serbs.

Mr. Karadzic said that if sanctions were suspended before the talks, Bosnian Serbs were prepared to go further in meeting Muslim demands.

"We propose that Sarajevo be divided into two cities and that we forget talks about percentages, and see what both we and the Croats can do to ensure the Muslims a viable state, one which can survive," Mr. Karadzic said.

Croats hold about 10 per cent of Bosnian territory and the landlocked Muslims have demanded the Croats give them access to the sea.

Man survives 300 metre plunge

ERIE, Colorado (AFP) — A man survived a 300-metre (950-foot) plunge from the top of a tower into a field after his parachute failed to open. Alf Humphries, 49, suffered seven spinal injuries when he hit the ground after attempting to paraglide from a communications tower Sunday. It is not known why his chute failed. Humphries belongs to a daredevil paragliding group called BASE, an acronym for Buildings, Antennas, Spans and Earth — the group's favourite launch pads for their jumps. Friends said Humphries had paraglided for 20 years and had been in the 5,000-member base for three.

Nurse's aide knew of 1978 baby swap

TAMPA, Fla. (AFP) — A doctor gave the order to switch Kimberly Mays with another baby at a hospital nearly 15 years ago, a former nurse's aide claimed in an unusual twist to the controversial case. Patsy Webb, 60, said Tuesday she worked at Hardee Memorial Hospital in Wauchula in December 1978 when Regina Twiss and Barbara Mays gave birth to baby girls within days of each other. Ms. Webb's account could not be independently verified. "She was asked by one of the treating physicians to switch the Twiss and Mays babies but she refused," Ms. Webb said in a statement issued by her attorney in Bartow. "Upon arrival at work the next day she immediately saw the infants had been switched. She was informed that if she said anything about the babies being switched, she would be immediately terminated from her employment at the hospital."

The statement said Ms. Webb kept quiet because her own child was sick with leukemia at the time and she wanted to keep her health insurance. Ms. Webb said she was speaking out now because her health is failing from an unidentified illness and she has a "desire to make the truth known." Attorneys for Ms. Webb provided no corroborating evidence, and refused to provide a motive or comment beyond the statement.

Clinton's daughter to perform in Christmas ballet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chelsea Clinton, the president's 13-year-old daughter, will perform next month in the Washington Ballet's production of the Christmas favourite, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's suite *The Nutcracker*. She is one of four students at the Washington School of Ballet who will share the role of favourite aunt in 18 performances at the Warner Theatre in Washington. The company will not say which of the 18 she will appear in, from Dec. 10 to Dec. 26. She performed in the ballet last Christmas in Arkansas, shortly after her father was elected, and has been taking ballet lessons for years. She started taking classes at the Washington School of Ballet in September. The school will not divulge what level class she is enrolled in. The Nutcracker runs at the Warner for 18 performances, from Dec. 10 through Dec. 26.

Apparent progress towards better relations in 1989, when Ms. Bhutto was prime minister and got along well with her Indian counterpart, the later assassinated Rajiv Gandhi, halted abruptly with the eruption of the Kashmir revolt. Then the Indian army laid siege to Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital and the centre of a revolt which police and hospital sources say has claimed more than 13,000 lives.

India justified the siege, which trapped about 80 armed militants and pilgrims, by saying it moved to thwart a Pakistani plot to steal what Kashmiris believe to be a hair of the Prophet Mohammad's beard housed in the shrine.

India accused Pakistan of fomenting and fuelling it, charges Islamabad denies.

NEW YORK (R) — While most students dream about having someone else take their SAT tests, federal authorities filed charges against two people who were paid \$5,000 to make those dreams a reality. The two, Jin Hyung Park and Wang Gi Jang, operated the Total Test Centre in Manhattan that allegedly had the sole purpose of providing imposters who could score well on college preparation and other similar exams. The two Korean nationals were arrested Saturday and charged with one federal count of conspiracy to defraud. Authorities said they arranged for imposters to take college tests including the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), Graduate Record Exam and the test of English as a Foreign Language.

In the province where more than 3,000 people have been killed in the Irish Republican Army fight to oust British rule, Mr. Moloney said Mr. Major's close co-operation with Dublin has sown suspicion among the one-million-strong Protestant majority.

"London and Dublin must very carefully weigh both their words and actions if a crisis is to be avoided," Mr. Moloney said, calling Ireland merely "a conduit" for talks with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political wing. Mr. Paisley, who fervently

Mandela: Right could destabilise S. Africa

told Mr. Mandela that the mood of Afrikaners was becoming explosive.

"Afrikaners want to live in peace with blacks but in terms of Afrikaner People's Front (AVF) policy," Gen. Viljoen said, referring to the right-wing umbrella group which he heads.

He said he had told Mr. Mandela South Africa's post-apartheid constitution should keep Afrikaners and the ANC apart to avert conflict.

He repeated his prediction that joint ANC control of the security forces, due to take effect with the installation of a Transitional Executive Council next month, would create "great problems."

Gen. Viljoen, former chief of the South African Defence Force, has said many officers will refuse to take orders from the ANC.

Mr. Mandela, speaking in radio call-in programme Tuesday night, said his meeting with Mr. Hartzenberg and Gen. Viljoen had "broken the ice."

"We look forward to a period of intensive discussion," he said.

Meanwhile Jan Egeland, state secretary at the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, discussed South Africa's post-apartheid democracy with ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Zulu-based Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi Tuesday during a visit to South Africa.

"Our aim, to the extent that this is possible, is to influence Inkatha to resume the peace process," Norwegian Foreign Minister Ingvar Haven told Reuters.

The Security Council welcomed Tuesday the successful completion of agreements on an interim South African constitution and electoral bill and urged all parties to respect the accords.

"These agreements constitute a historic step forward in establishing a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa," a statement read at a brief Council meeting said.

The Council said it looked forward to elections scheduled for next April and urged "all parties in South Africa, including those which did not participate fully in the multi-party talks, to respect agreements reached during the negotiations, to recommit themselves to democratic principles, to take part in the elections and to resolve outstanding issues by peaceful means only."

This was directed at groups, such as the Freedom Alliance.

It will be their first substantive meeting since August 1992 and the first time there will be comprehensive talks on India's rule of Kashmir since a revolt against Delhi erupted there four years ago.

The road to the new talks was rocky, reflecting the nature of the relations between two countries which have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir, since independence from Britain in 1947.

The war left India holding two-thirds of the Himalayan region as Jammu and Kashmir, the predominantly Hindu nation's only Muslim-majority state.

Pakistan controls the rest.

MOSCOW (R) — Russians Tuesday sat through a second dose of party political broadcasts in the country's election campaign, getting a diet of pop music, appeals to vote and statements averring life has already become much better.

"Two years ago people had to rush to Moscow to buy basic goods, they suffered from a rationing system, but this is no longer the case," said Yegor Gaidar, the reformist minister who spearheaded President Boris Yeltsin's market reforms in 1992.

Mr. Gaidar's bloc, called Russia's Choice, includes many key ministers and is determined to press ahead with reforms.

Under Russia's complicated rules dividing up the airtime, parties are allocated several 30-minute slots of prime-time television.

The first free party political television broadcast for the 13 registered parties went out Monday evening and are due to continue up to the eve of polling day on Dec. 12.

Russia's Choice and other two reformist blocs have cut a deal to increase their exposure, dividing their broadcasting time into 20 minute chunks.

No arrests were announced.

"It is the largest ever seizure of arms," a customs spokesman told Reuters. "It was from Poland and bound for East Belfast, the Protestant side."

The seizure reinforced

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25-26, 1993 9

Van Basten possibly out for rest of the season



Marco Van Basten

MILAN (AP) — A slow-healing ankle injury may keep Marco Van Basten, star striker of AC Milan and the Dutch national team, on the sidelines for the rest of the season, doctors say.

AC Milan Doctor Rodolfo Tavana told Italian television Tuesday evening that new examinations of Van Basten's twice-operated right ankle showed unsatisfactory results and the player will be idled for the next three months.

Previous reports had indicated that Van Basten could return to action in December.

While strongly denying that Van Basten's career may be over, Dr. Tavana suggested the Dutch star is likely to be sidelined for the rest of the season, also missing the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

The Netherlands is among the teams which qualified for the final round of next year's World Cup.

The Dutch striker, a three-time Best European Player of the Year, injured his right ankle in December 1992, played a few games in May and was sidelined again by recurring ankle pains which required a second surgery.

AC Milan, which is in the running for its third consecutive Italian League title and a fifth Champions Cup this season following mixed performances.

son, had been hoping for Van Basten to return and boost both its offense and its chances.

Despite fielding such stars as Jean-Pierre Papin, Brian Laudrup and Zvonimir Boban, Milan's offense has been less than impressive this season.

Considered one of the best world strikers ever, Van Basten is the only Dutch player left on AC Milan's lineup following the departure of Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard.

Van Basten's contract with the Milan club, granting him about \$1.5 million a year, expires in 1996.

Dr. Tavana reported Van Basten's condition to the television network Italia Uno after the player was examined in a Belgian clinic at Antwerp.

The doctor's report was not the only bad news of the day for the Milan powerhouse.

Montenegrin midfielder Dejan Savicevic refused to travel with the Milan team to Belgium for a Champions League match against Anderlecht because he was not guaranteed a place in the starting 11.

Milan officials were expected to take disciplinary action against the unpredictable Montenegrin player, who has been on and off the team this season following mixed performances.

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Platini denies plot against French manager

PARIS (AFP) — Michel Platini has denied involvement in a plot to depose national coach Gerard Houllier in the wake of France's failure to reach the World Cup finals.

The former French captain and coach, now in charge of preparations to host the World Cup in 1998, stuck by remarks though that Houllier should leave if his team were beaten.

Following Graham Taylor's resignation as England manager, over his failure to reach USA '94, Houllier will be next in the firing line among international managers after the qualifying campaign.

France's consecutive home defeats to Israel and last week to Bulgaria cost them their place at the finals. And Platini said in an interview in Tuesday's Le Monde, that "the repercussions of such a failure are enormous."

"A lot of things were said after the France-Bulgaria game. I thought there was no point adding by comments. But I have heard a lot of untruths, especially this story about a 'plot' I was said to have taken part in to harm Gerard Houllier."

After the Bulgaria defeat, Houllier hinted that he thought he was the victim of a campaign. But he did not name anyone.

Platini declared: "It never happened. People can say what they like. That is part of football. But there was never a plot."

France's greatest soccer player admitted that he had said before the game that Houllier, his assistant when national coach, should resign if France lost.

"I don't regret that. It is normal. I would have left had I been in his place," said Platini.

That gives Coppel and Venables both currently "resting" from the managerial merry-go-round, an inside track — except that Coppel says he does not want the job and Venables' reputation is still clouded following his departure from Tottenham.

For the bookmakers, then, it

English struggle to fill 'worst job in country'

LONDON (R) — It used to be regarded as the best job in English sport by Wednesday it was a laughing stock.

Since Graham Taylor resigned as England's soccer manager Tuesday, the hunt for his replacement has become a national obsession to match anything which happened on the pitch in Taylor's reign.

Caretaker manager, two-tier appointments, father figures, dictators... the newspaper prophets have suggested the lot. The latest shortlist even contained Margaret Thatcher ("good against awkward foreign opposition"), Sean Connery ("proven success") and the Pope ("respect of the supporters").

The sad fact behind the public laughter, though, is that hardly anyone in the country is actually prepared to take the job. English soccer, once revered around the world, has become a rundown ship no-one wants to board.

Don Howe, suggested as an ideal "eminent grise" to see the national side through to the end of the season and give the Football Association (F.A.) some breathing space, became the latest Wednesday to decline to climb on deck.

"I did 10 years and that was enough," said Howe, 58, who coached England under the stewardship of Bobby Robson. "I've had my go. It's a good time to try other people out. They've got the likes of Terry Venables and Steve Coppell — they should be given the chance."

F.A. chief executive Graham Kelly, looking for a man to guide England in friendlies against Denmark and Germany next March and April, has stressed that a caretaker manager would not be a caretaker boss.

That gives Coppel and Venables both currently "resting" from the managerial merry-go-round, an inside track — except that Coppel says he does not want the job and Venables' reputation is still clouded following his departure from Tottenham.

For the bookmakers, then, it

is a case of rounding up the usual suspects. Brian Clough, turned down years ago, is 50-1 to come out of retirement. George Graham is 16-1 despite the fact that he is a Scotsman. Even screaming Lord Sutch, the country's best-known eccentric, is quoted — at 100,000-1.

Taylor, meanwhile, is attracting considerably more sympathy out of the job than he did in it. He may reflect that, even in a nation of three million unemployed, his luck has already turned for the better.

Meanwhile the English Football Supporters' Association (FSA) has called on the F.A.'s 12-man international committee and F.A. director of coaching Charles Hughes to follow Taylor's lead in quitting.

Steve Beauchamp, FSA international officer, said after hearing of Taylor's resignation Tuesday: "All talk of continuity and restructuring is irrelevant while so many failed men remain complacently in their posts."

He said Peter Swales, as chairman, and the entire international committee responsible for Taylor's appointment must share the blame.

"Most of all Charles Hughes, the man responsible for the F.A.'s 1991 'blueprint' — allegedly designed to place the national team at the pinnacle of football — should leave and leave now."

"In 29 years at the F.A., Hughes and his tactically sterile methods have taken England from world champions to also-rans," Beauchamp said.

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, was also critical of Hughes, saying he should shoulder some of the blame for England's failings.

"It is time for the professional game to be run by professionals, rather than amateur administrators and club chairmen whose interest inevitably is mainly with their clubs," he said.

2nd German swimmer in 2 days fails dope test

BONN (R) — A second German swimmer in two days has failed a dope test and faces a possible two-year ban, the German Swimming Association (DSV) team manager said Tuesday.

But a report of possible exonerations for another swimmer banned for drug use, and protestations of innocence from the two latest alleged offenders, prompted calls for a review of testing techniques.

DSV team manager Ralf Beckmann said Steffen Smollich, a member of the gold medal-winning breaststroke and backstroke relay teams at this month's European Sprint Championships in Gateshead, England, had been found to have excessive levels of the banned stimulant Caffeine.

"We only have the result of the A-test so far but it shows a reading slightly over the limit," he said.

Both swimmers must now await the results of the second,

B-test for confirmation of the positive verdict.

But Beckmann said the cases raised the question of whether tests currently being used could produce false results.

His point was underlined by news that a laboratory in Utrecht in the Netherlands had found that ininating hor-

mone levels which led to the banning of former world champion Astrid Strelak last year could have come from alcohol.

Strauss always said a heavy beer-drinking session had

made her own body produce unusually high levels of the hormone Testosterone — usually a pointer to steroid use.

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Nabil & Hisham's Tel: 623151 ARIAN THEATRE The political comedy WELCOME ARAB SUMMER Daily 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday English synopsis available

Compagnoni bids to exploit local knowledge

ROME (R) — Italy's Olympic gold medalist Deborah Compagnoni seeks to make home advantage count when the women's World Cup alpine ski season gets into full swing with Sunday.

The 23-year-old Italian has yet to recapture peak form

after a bitter-sweet 1992 Olympics when she won gold in the super-G only to rip knee ligaments 24 hours later.

She failed to complete the first leg when reigning overall World Cup champion Anita Wachter won the season-opening giant slalom in Soelden, Austria, four weeks ago.

"It's disappointing when you ski out but it's not happened since in training, even in the slalom," Compagnoni said by telephone from Santa Caterina.

Seemingly jinxed by injury, she had to skip a couple of days training last week after an overtight ski boot caused an inflammation of the heel.

"The pain has gone but it's a lot easier now," said the Italian, who remains optimistic about chalking up only the third World Cup win of her career.

"If I say a little prayer then

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+ 8 4 3
+ 8 5 2
+ A Q 3

WEST
+ Q 6
+ 10 2
+ 10 9 7 6 4 3
+ 8 7 2
+ A K 10 9 6 4

SOUTH
+ A K 10 9 5 2
+ 9 7 6
+ K 3

The bidding:
East South West North
1 + 1 + 2 +
3 + 4 + Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of

The defenders are at a tremendous disadvantage in the play of the hand. Unlike declarer, who has all of his side's aces in sight, each defender sees only his own hand and the cards in dummy. That makes it imperative that the defenders use their wits to help one another find the best defense. Consider this deal from a team game:

All roads lead to Rome. Whether South elects to ruff or double or make a takeout double or East's one-hand opening, North-South

should land in four spades. Both teams easily reached the spade game, and at both tables West attacked with the ten of hearts. Both Easts won the first two tricks and continued with a high heart to the third trick.

Here, the play of the two defenders in the West seats diverted drastically. One West signalled vigorously with the aid of dummy.

East dutifully shifted to a diamond. Declares now with the ace, drew trumps and then took three rounds of clubs, discarding the queen of diamonds on the last. Making four.

At the other table West realized that, while the king of diamonds was possibly a trick, the queen of spades was surely one, as long as partner led a fourth heart. So West made the dramatic discard of the king of diamonds on the third heart!

East was not too startled to work out that, while a diamond shift, a high diamond would have been a sufficient signal. The king of diamonds was sure to mean that partner did not want a shift to either major suit. So East continued with a fourth heart and, whether declarer elected to ruff high, low or not at all, the queen of trumps was promoted to the setting trick.

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CONCORD

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CONCORD '2'

DRACULA

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15

PLAZA

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

SKI SCHOOL

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD

CONCORD '2'

DRACULA

Shows:

NEWS IN BRIEF

14 expellees refuse to go back home

MARJ AL ZOHOUR (AP) — Fourteen Palestinians expelled by Israel nearly a year ago said Wednesday they would not return home if that means they would go back to Israeli jails. "I'm too weak to bear four more years in jail. I've already endured five before my deportation," said Jamal Amer, 35, of Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip. Mr. Amer said he and 13 other deportees have hired a West Bank lawyer, Jawad Boulos, to try to obtain official guarantees they will not be forced to serve out the rest of their jail terms. "I will not return without such a guarantee," Mr. Amer added. The 14 are part of the 217 expellees who remain stranded in Marj Al Zohour, Israel has said they will be repatriated sometime next month.

Sudan arrests 3 Egyptians in Khartoum

CAIRO (R) — Sudan has arrested three Egyptians working in the Sudanese capital Khartoum. Cairo newspapers reported on Wednesday, risking an upset in the fragile detente between the two neighbours. Al Abram and Al Akbar quoted a report by the Egyptian news agency MENA saying Sudanese police arrested the three on Tuesday while they were at work without giving a reason. The London-based Al Hayat said Egypt would lodge a complaint with the government there. All three were working for official Egyptian institutions. One was headmaster of the Egyptian embassy's school, another was director of the Egyptian social club in Khartoum and the third was an accountant at the Egyptian Trade Centre.

Iranian who taped TV shows arrested

TEHRAN (R) — Tehran police have arrested a man for taping and selling "decadent" satellite television programmes on video. Kayhan newspaper said Tuesday. Iranian police and vice squads seize thousands of video tapes deemed un-Islamic every year but this was the first reported of case of videos reproduced from satellite television. Western-oriented Iranians who find state television boring increasingly turn to satellite disc receivers which are available on the black market to watch foreign films and music shows. Kayhan said the man was arrested in a posh area of north Tehran. He said he had bought his receiver for 1.8 million rials (\$1,000), about three times the price of a television set. A senior anti-vice official said in June that smuggling of the receivers was illegal, but there were no laws against manufacturing them in Iran or installing or using them.

Six executed in Sharjah for murder

ABU DHABI (AP) — Six convicted murderers were executed Wednesday in what officials said was part of an attempt to curb rising crime in this oil-rich federation of emirates. An Interior Ministry statement said four Indians and two Pakistanis were executed at the central prison in Sharjah, one of the seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The statement did not give the method of execution, in previous cases, executions were carried out by a firing squad. The statement said the six were involved in the killing of three people — two UAE nationals and a Pakistani — in three separate cases, going back as far as 1985. The four Indians were named as Suleiman Abdulla Kutty, Pillai Khamon Prasannan, Kumarath Mohan and Purushotham John Kumar.

2 Chinese, 3 Israelis killed in 'crash'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A helicopter crashed and went up in flames Wednesday morning in southern Israel, killing the pilot and all four passengers on board, among them two visiting Chinese officials. The crash occurred around 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) north of the city of Beersheba, officials said. The private aircraft took off from Herzliya just north of Tel Aviv and was headed to Masada near the Dead Sea. Initial investigations indicated the aircraft struck either an electric pylon or wires, setting it on fire and it blew apart, aviation officials said. The precise cause of the accident was still being probed. The Chinese victims were identified as Wu Dingsheng, 58, mayor of Shenyang, a city in the northwest province of Liaoning, and a woman, Zhang Li, deputy chairperson of a Shenyang development committee and an associate professor in economics.

3 wounded in South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Two civilians and an Israeli-backed militiaman were wounded in clashes Wednesday in South Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia and police said. Snipers attacked an SLA position, wounding one. Police said the two civilians were hurt as Israeli artillery gunners retaliated. The militiaman was wounded at Nabi Taher on the Kfar Tibnit passage point which links Israel's self-declared "security zone" with the rest of South Lebanon, the SLA said. The attack was followed by clashes between SLA forces at Nabi Taher and guerrillas of the Islamic Resistance, the armed wing of Hezbollah. The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the attack and said two SLA militiamen were hurt.

Cyprus protests Pakistani visit to north

NICOSIA (R) — The Cyprus government protested on Wednesday about a visit by Pakistan's ambassador to Ankara to the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state. Foreign Minister Alecos Michaelides called in Pakistan's ambassador to Cyprus. Mohammad Quarban, who had only presented his credentials on Tuesday, to ask for an explanation. "I protested over the visit, asked whether Pakistan calls it official and whether the timing was coincidental," Mr. Michaelides told reporters.

Iran, Indonesia aim for vast cooperation

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and Indonesia set the stage here Wednesday for vast economic, political and oil-related cooperation in first meeting between presidents Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Suharto. Mr. Rafsanjani spoke of "immense potential" for economic cooperation with Indonesia, the president's office reported. Both leaders called for joint efforts in the oil, textile, aircraft and shipping industries. The two states could work closer to stabilise oil prices and protect the rights of oil-producing states, said the Iranian president. On the political front, Mr. Rafsanjani called for Islamic unity and more efforts to help Muslim states such as Bosnia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Somalia.

Two Lebanese held with forged dollars

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus police detained two Lebanese men in connection with possession of forged \$100 bills and small amount of what is believed to be cocaine, a police spokesman said on Wednesday. Police arrested Hassan Ahmad Soleh, 24, and Ihab Mohammad Solah, 26, on Monday and confiscated 17 counterfeit \$100 bills and less than a gramme of white powder believed to be cocaine. "The powder is now under examination at a state lab. Soleh told us the stuff was for personal use only," police spokesman Savvas Antoniades told Reuters.

ESCPWA organises meeting on crises

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCPWA) and the American University of Beirut (AUB) will hold an expert group meeting on "The operation of enterprises under severe and fast changing conditions" from Nov. 24 to 26, 1993 at the AUB, Beirut. Experts from Arab countries and others will deliberate on the theoretical framework on disaster and crisis like conditions, and on managing the impact of these conditions on individual institutions, firms and enterprises in the productive sector, to reduce damage and prepare for recovery.



An Israeli soldier takes a souvenir picture of his comrade in Gaza City Wednesday. Under the terms of the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord, Israeli forces are to start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13 (AP photo).

Israeli move out of Gaza, Jericho already underway

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel has started redeploying troops and dismantling bases in the occupied territories ahead of deadline and while peace negotiators are still working out the details of the transfer of power to the Palestinians.

The movement of forces out of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho shows that Israel is anxious to get moving on a process that it sees as a test of whether the autonomy accord can work. It comes despite official claims that nothing would happen before a full Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement.

A Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Wednesday that he had observed redeployment of troops in Gaza and Jericho, but no reduction of forces.

In signing their accord in Sept. 13, Israel and the PLO set a Dec. 13 deadline for beginning the transfer of authority. But in recent weeks, both sides have said that date is not set in stone.

Gad Ben-Ari, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said Wednesday he was not aware of troop redeployment. "In principle, the redeployment of the Israeli forces will begin only once the negotiations are concluded, hopefully by Dec. 13," he said.

Still, in preparation for the handover, senior PLO military figures visited Gaza this week to lay the groundwork for a Palestinian police force once Israel withdraws from most areas.

Fares Hassoun, one of the Palestinians in charge of setting up the Gaza police force, refused to say Wednesday if there was already a timetable for troop withdrawal.

"We are waiting for the Israelis to vacate military bases in Gaza City and Rafah, because we are going to use these military bases for training the policemen," was all Mr. Hassoun would say.

Earlier this week, Israeli newspapers published a copy of an army order to some reserve units to report for duty Dec. 29 to help in the withdrawal.

A poll published by the Yedioth Achronot daily Wednesday showed that 80 per cent of eligible soldiers would participate in an evacuation of forces without hesitation. Six per cent said they would refuse on political grounds.

Israel Television broadcast scenes this week of the army moving tanks out of a base in the Jericho area. Newspapers have published photos of bulldozers clearing ground for the construction of a tall fence separating Gaza from Israel.

In Gaza City, a military encampment in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood was all but dismantled Wednesday: Only one sentry stood guard.

"We are waiting for a full pull out," said Mohammad Mahmoud Danaf, a fisherman who lives next door. "I will slaughter a goat the moment they all leave."

The camp was built after uprising-related attacks intensified in the area in the late 1980s. The would not allow Mr. Danaf access to the first storey of his house as it abutted the camp.

Fares Hassoun, one of the Palestinians in charge of setting up the Gaza police force, refused to say Wednesday if there was already a timetable for troop withdrawal.

At a briefing session for reserve soldiers at Deheishet three weeks ago, an army colonel told his troops that they were to treat these symbols nonchalantly: "You see the Palestinian flag, it's the Swiss flag. You see Yasser Arafat, it's president Clinton."

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